EUROPEAN UNION

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Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the establishment of the Interim Jubba Administration in Somalia

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission issued the following statement today:

"I welcome the agreement reached today in Addis Ababa for the establishment of the Interim Jubba Administration. It is important not only for Somalia but also for the stability of the entire Horn of Africa region. I hope this will pave the way for the constitutional review to achieve a consensus on the establishment of the federal system.

The achievement has been possible thanks to the constructive approach of all parties and the leadership of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud to pursue an agreement in the interest of the people of Somalia. I congratulate Ahmed Madoobe for his appointment as Leader of the Interim Jubba Administration. I recognise that both parties have made a major political effort to achieve this agreement, and will need to sustain that effort to ensure that it is implemented, which I hope will happen swiftly. The EU stands ready with international partners to engage rapidly in support of the immediate needs of the local population and will continue to help the people of Somalia in their efforts to build a more stable future.

I commend the efforts of all those who have worked for this outcome, in particular the IGAD chair Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, as well as the Kenyan authorities, the UN and others.

The Brussels Conference on Somalia on 16 September 2013 will be an important opportunity to provide renewed impetus to Somalia's stability and reconstruction through endorsement of the New Deal Compact so that the country can turn a page in its history and embrace a new future."

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