



EUROPEAN UNION

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**Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
and EU Commissioner for International Cooperation,
Humanitarian Aid and Crisis response Kristalina Georgieva
on the destructive passage of Hurricane Sandy across the Caribbean**

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

We have been profoundly touched by the news of death and devastation caused by the passage of Hurricane Sandy through the northern part of the Caribbean. We wish to express sincere condolences to the people of Haiti, Cuba, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas, especially the families of those who have lost their lives and those affected by the widespread disastrous effects of the hurricane to homes and livelihoods and the significant economic losses.

The EU Monitoring and Information Centre continues to follow the evolution of the hurricane together with the European Commission's humanitarian experts on the ground who will participate in the assessment of the situation and potential needs for assistance. The European Union stands ready to provide support in the recovery efforts. We will also continue to support disaster prevention and risk reduction projects in vulnerable Caribbean countries and other disaster-prone regions.

P R E S S

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