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STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the presidential decree ordering a stay on all executions in the UAE

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 announcement that the President of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, ordered a stay on all executions in the UAE on 29 January 2014.

I hope this will constitute a first step towards the consideration of a definitive moratorium on the use of the death penalty in the UAE.

I also hope that this development will set a positive example for the wider region to adopt similar measures paving the way for the abolition of the death penalty.

The EU opposes capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances. Capital punishment represents an unnecessary loss of human life. It renders irreversible any judicial errors and numerous studies have demonstrated that it has no deterrent effect."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu @EUHighRepSpox
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu @AshtonSpox Maja
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Nabila Massrali +32 460 75 41 75 - Nabila.Massrali@ec.europa.eu

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