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## S T A T E M E N T

### **by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the recent incidents in Venezuela**

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

*"The High Representative is following with concern the incidents that took place in Caracas on 12 February. At least three people were shot dead during a demonstration while many people are said to have been injured in demonstrations across the country. Press reports indicate that arrest warrants have now been issued for a number of opposition representatives.*

*Both government and opposition have appealed for calm. The High Representative supports this appeal and calls upon representatives of all parties and sections of society to maintain calm in both actions and words. Freedom of expression and the right to participate in peaceful demonstrations are essential.*

*The High Representative again encourages all parties to pursue peaceful dialogue and calls upon Venezuelan authorities to reach out to all segments of Venezuelan society."*

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#### FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- [Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu) @EUHighRepSpox  
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - [Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu) @AshtonSpox Maja  
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - [Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu)  
Eamonn Prendergast +32 460 75 32 93 - [Eamonn.Prendergast@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Eamonn.Prendergast@ec.europa.eu)  
Traversa Maria Lyra +32 2 2956368 [Maria-Lyra.TRAVERSA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Maria-Lyra.TRAVERSA@ec.europa.eu)

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