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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 speech by the President of The Gambia  
against the right of freedom from discrimination**

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 deplores the inflammatory statement on homosexuality by the President of The Gambia at the National Day ceremony on 18 February.*

*The European Union is opposed to discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. It is firmly committed to fundamental human rights and the rule of law in respect of those rights, including freedom of association, conscience and speech and the equality of persons. It supports the respect of human rights in all countries of the world.*

*The High Representative also recalls the importance of all States respecting the provisions of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic immunity."*

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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