Statement by the Spokesperson on the resignation of UN Envoy for Western Sahara Köhler

Horst Köhler, Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Western Sahara peace process has announced his resignation for personal reasons.

The European Union commends the progress made by President Köhler. During his mandate, he has contributed to bringing a new dynamism to the Western Sahara process. The EU looks forward to the appointment of his successor by the UN Secretary-General, so that the momentum in the process will be sustained and the work can be brought to fruition.

The EU expects all the stakeholders involved in the Geneva roundtable process to preserve what has been achieved during the past two years and to continue to engage in the talks in a spirit of compromise and conciliation. The EU will continue to give its full support to the UN process.

The Western Sahara conflict has lasted for far too long, causing political friction in the region and acting as an impediment to regional co-operation, as well as leading to suffering among the displaced people.

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