EUROPEAN UNION

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Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the latest reports of use of chemical weapons in Damascus

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 have seen with grave concern the reports of the possible use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime. I reiterate that any use of chemical weapons, by any side in Syria, would be totally unacceptable.

Such accusations should be immediately and thoroughly investigated by the United Nations expert mission which arrived recently in Syria.

The mission must be allowed full and unhindered access to all sites on the Syrian territory according to its requirements. The Syrian authorities as well as all other parties in Syria need to provide all necessary support to and cooperation with the mission's operations.
I have also noted invitations by the opposition for the mission to visit rebel-held areas."

P R E S S

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