Brussels, 24 December 2013
131224/02

S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the recent bombings in Aleppo

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 deeply concerned with reports of an escalating bombing campaign in the city of Aleppo that has lasted for over a week leaving more than 300 people dead, many of them children. She condemns the unabated use of airstrikes by the Syrian Government on civilian areas. The reports of the use of 'barrel bombs' known for their devastating effects, especially in densely populated civilian areas, are particularly worrisome.

The High Representative recalls the importance of respecting international humanitarian law in all circumstances. The UNSC Presidential Statement on the humanitarian situation in Syria of 2 October should be implemented as rapidly as possible by all sides.

The High Representative calls for an immediate cessation of violence. She urges all parties to stick to their commitments to participate in the 'Geneva II' political process to start on 22 January, and which the EU has consistently supported."

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
Follow us on Twitter @eu_eeas
www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService
www.eeas.europa.eu