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Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following her meeting with the Syrian National Council

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:

"Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, met today with representatives of the Syrian National Council. The meeting forms part of ongoing efforts to engage with representative members of the opposition who adhere to non violence and democratic values, as agreed by the Foreign Affairs Council on 14 November.

The High Representative reiterated her deep concern at the deteriorating situation in Syria, stressed the EU's strong support to the Syrian people and condemned in the strongest terms the ongoing brutal repression and widespread human rights violations. She welcomed the ongoing efforts by the Syrian opposition to establish a united platform and to work for a shared vision for the future of Syria and the transition to a democratic system.

She also highlighted the importance of an inclusive opposition political platform taking in all religious and ethnic communities. She stressed the importance of the opposition maintaining a clear commitment to a peaceful and non sectarian approach and welcomed the SNC's efforts in this regard. The High Representative encouraged the SNC to continue to engage with the Arab League to support its efforts towards a successful transition."

P R E S S

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 299 97 80 - Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu
Sebastien Brabant +32 498 986 433 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu
www.eeas.europa.eu

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