



EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 16 July 2010  
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**Statement by the spokesperson of HR Catherine Ashton  
on the expulsion of the acting Australian High Commissioner by Fiji**

The spokesperson of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission Catherine Ashton issued the following statement today:

*"The High Representative regrets the announcement by Fiji's Government on 13 July 2010 on the expulsion from Fiji of Australia's acting High Commissioner.*

*This represents a new setback for Fiji's relations with the international community after indications of gradual improvements earlier in the year. Fiji's interim government's restricting ties will only further its isolation and undermine all efforts towards re-engagement. HR Ashton appeals to Fiji to engage instead in meaningful dialogue with all its partners, including the EU.*

*HR Ashton reiterates her concern about military rule in Fiji and calls on the interim government to take steps to comply with the commitments previously made to the EU and the wider international community with regard to the respect for democratic principles, the rule of law and human rights and fundamental freedoms. HR Ashton in particular calls for the repeal of the Public Emergency Regulations and the start of an inclusive national dialogue process as repeatedly announced by the interim Prime Minister."*

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**P R E S S**

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