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Reaction of High Representative Catherine Ashton on Israel's military operation against Gaza flotilla

Catherine Ashton, European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/European Commission Vice-President, made the following statement in Warsaw today:

"During the course of this morning, I have spoken to Israel's Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman to express our deepest concern about the tragedy that has happened.

I have said there should be an immediate inquiry by Israel into the circumstances, and I have also taken the opportunity to point out, having visited Gaza, the importance of opening the crossings for humanitarian aid to go through, to ensure that ordinary people have a better existence than that which I saw.

We will continue to coordinate with member states throughout today, and of course, I express my condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives."

A video of the statement by HR/VP Ashton is available at:

http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/story/index/story_id/15313

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