Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the defection of the Libyan Ambassador to the EU

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

"The High Representative welcomes the decision by Libyan Ambassador to the European Union and the Benelux, Mr Al Hadi Hadeiba, to sever links with the Gaddafi regime, in protest at the violent repression of the Libyan people.

We have been in contact with him and praise his courageous decision to work for a democratic Libya and a better future for the Libyan people.

The High Representative and the European External Action Service look forward to remaining in close contact with Mr Al Hadi Hadeiba as part of ongoing efforts to support groups working for a peaceful and democratic transition in Libya.

Those at the top of the Gaddafi regime have a choice:

Stay with Gaddafi and face rejection by their fellow citizens and the international community.

Or support efforts to ensure that the hopes and expectations of the Libyan people are realised through democracy and a process that allows all Libyans to come together and decide on their future."

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