

**Statement by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Catherine Ashton on North Korean attack on South Korean Island**

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission made the following statement:

"I am deeply concerned by today's events on the Korean Peninsula, which have reportedly led to casualties among South Korean military and civilians.

I strongly condemn this attack by the DPRK. I call on the North Korean authorities to refrain from any action that risks further escalation and to fully respect the Korean Armistice Agreement.

I welcome a call for restraint by President Lee Myung-bak.

We are monitoring developments closely. I would like to underline that peace and stability on the Korean peninsula remains essential for the region and the wider world."