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S T A T E M E N T

**by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
on improving Cross-Strait relations**

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:

"The High Representative warmly welcomes the meeting between high officials in charge of Cross-Strait relations from both sides of the Taiwan Strait taking place today, 11 February, in Nanjing.

The event demonstrates the level of trust reached since the current process of rapprochement was established in 2008, with increasing people-to-people exchanges, practical cooperation and economic links.

The High Representative encourages both sides to continue to take initiatives that further develop Cross-Strait relations in a peaceful way."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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