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## **Statement by the Spokesperson of the High Representative on the on the ICC decision concerning the arrest warrants for Sudanese Defence Minister Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein**

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 has taken note of the decision of the International Criminal Court's Pre-Trial Chamber I on 1 March 2012 to issue an arrest warrant against Sudanese Defence Minister Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein in connection with alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur from August 2003 to March 2004.*

*The High Representative recalls the fundamental principle contained in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court that the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole must not go unpunished. Putting an end to impunity for the perpetrators of these crimes contributes to the prevention of such crimes.*

*The High Representative firmly recalls the importance of all Member States of the United Nations abiding by and implementing the resolutions adopted by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, in this case UNSCR 1593(2005), referring the situation in Sudan to the ICC."*

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**P R E S S**

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