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## STATEMENT

### Statement of the High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini on the situation in Yemen

The latest events in Yemen have dramatically worsened the already fragile situation in the country and risk having serious regional consequences.

The advance of Houthi forces and of military units loyal to ex-President Saleh towards Aden yesterday, as well as the aerial targeting of President Hadi's compound, were unacceptable steps towards escalating an already polarized situation, and triggered today's Saudi-led airstrikes.

I'm convinced that military action is not a solution.

Only a broad political consensus through negotiations can provide a sustainable solution, restore peace, and preserve the unity and territorial integrity of Yemen. Otherwise, the ability of extremist and terrorist groups to take advantage of the situation is likely to increase dramatically.

The Yemeni civilian population, already affected by dire living conditions, are the first victims of the current military escalation.

At this critical juncture all regional actors should act responsibly and constructively, to create as a matter of urgency the conditions for a return to negotiations. The EU reiterates its support to all efforts currently undertaken to this effect, in particular those of the UN and of regional actors.

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#### **FOR FURTHER DETAILS:**

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