



EUROPEAN UNION

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**Statement by the spokesperson
of High Representative Catherine Ashton
on the appointment of Admiral Bubu Na Tchuto**

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 deeply regrets the appointment of Admiral José Américo Bubu Na Tchuto as Navy Chief.

Mr Bubu Na Tchuto played a destabilizing role in the aftermath of the 01 April mutiny and is under sanctions by international partners for alleged links to illicit activities.

This decision constitutes a further setback to good governance in Guinea Bissau, shows a further militarization of politics in the country, and could entail negative consequences in the country's relationship with the EU as it engages in a review of its overall engagement with Guinea Bissau. The EU reiterates the paramount importance of military respect for civilian institutions and the rule of law, and reiterates the incompatibility of anti-constitutional behaviour or involvement in illicit traffics with such positions of responsibility."

P R E S S

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