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Brussels, 25/10/2013  
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European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz 60  
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Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your letter of 24 September 2013 addressed to Commissioner Andris Piebalgs and me in which you share your concerns about the detention conditions of Ms Reeyot Alemu, a nominee for the 2013 Sakharov Prize.

As highlighted during the exchange of views between the EP Human Rights Subcommittee and EEAS representatives on 25 September 2013, our Delegation in Ethiopia is monitoring the situation of Ms Reeyot Alemu very closely, notably through regular contacts with her family.

On your specific request for a visit, I am pleased to inform you that a member of staff from the EU Delegation to Ethiopia was able to visit Ms Reeyot in Kaliti prison on 4 October 2013. As a result of these contacts, we can confirm that Ms Reeyot has ended her hunger strike in mid-September 2013. Both she and her family have confirmed that she is no longer being harassed by her co-inmates, and that her friends and family have the permit to visit her in prison. Ms Reeyot is also undergoing the required medical treatment.

The Delegation has requested to visit Kaliti prison to assess the prison's conditions in a meeting with the Minister of Federal Affairs, Dr Shiferaw Teklemariam, on 3 October 2013. While not declining the request, the Minister stated that it would require further discussion. The Delegation will follow up on this matter with the Minister in due course. The issue of a visit will also be taken up in a planned meeting with the Head of Prison Administrations.

The EU will continue to follow the human and political rights situation in Ethiopia very closely and raise its concerns with the Ethiopian Government, notably in our Article 8 political dialogue meetings.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Catherine Ashton*

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