Excerpts from the daily press briefing by Philippe Lalliot, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' spokesman (Paris, February 12, 2013)

North Korea – Nuclear test

France utterly condemns the nuclear test carried out by North Korea on February 12, 2013. This test is a grave crime that seriously undermines regional and international peace and security. It is also – following the launch of a long-range rocket on December 12 – a further unacceptable violation by North Korea of its international obligations.

We call on North Korea to put an immediate end to its attempts to destabilize the region. It must fully implement without delay UN Security Council resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2087. We again urge it to resume dialogue with a view toward the complete, irreversible and verifiable dismantlement of its nuclear and ballistic program.

France is already working with its partners in the Security Council, the European Union and the region on the consequences of this new provocation, and in particular on a further strengthening of sanctions against North Korea.