STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the presidential elections in the Maldives

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 Catherine Ashton congratulates the people of the Maldives on the first round of voting in their presidential elections, which international observers have recognised as inclusive and competitive. The very high level of voter participation demonstrates the commitment of Maldivians to the democratic process. Campaigning was peaceful and the elections were well run.

The High Representative looks forward to the second round of voting on the 28th September in which the people of the Maldives will be able to freely choose their next president. She remains committed to supporting a stable, democratic Maldives."

___________________