STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the Supreme Court's decision to annul the first round of presidential elections in the Maldives

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"I have taken note of the decision by the Supreme Court to annul the first round of elections in the Maldives and to set a new election date for 20 October.

The international community recognized the outcome of the first round on 7th September as inclusive and credible.

Under these circumstances, I urge that elections planned for 20 October take place in full compliance with national and international standards and that the Maldives democratic institutions are safeguarded and the will of the people respected. The EU restates its confidence in the ability of the Election Commission to ensure this.

The EU remains ready to support a democratically-elected government in confronting the major challenges that the country is facing"