STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the elections in Kosovo

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 been following the elections in Kosovo very closely and I congratulate the voters for their participation. These elections were crucial for Kosovo’s future.

I would like to express my thanks to the OSCE for all the hard work in facilitating the elections in the north.

I also would like to thank Chief Observer Roberto Gualtieri and the EU Observation Mission for all their hard work and for the preliminary report issued today.

Their assessment confirms that in most parts of Kosovo the elections took place in an orderly manner.

At the same time I strongly condemn the violent incidents in polling stations of Mitrovica north. All voters have the right to participate in elections in a safe and secure environment, free of violence. The incidents must be investigated without delay.

I will be meeting Prime Minister Dačić and Prime Minister Thaçi in Brussels on Wednesday, 6 November, for a new round of the dialogue. We will discuss the next steps in the electoral process as well as the next steps in the implementation of the April Agreement."

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