STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on

the general elections in Honduras on 24 November 2013

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 salute the Honduran people for the high turnout in the elections, showing their strong desire to exercise their political rights. I commend the electoral authorities and political parties for their contribution to the orderly and peaceful conduct of the elections. I take note of the preliminary results in favour of Mr. Juan Orlando Hernandez in the Presidential election.

I was pleased to respond positively to the invitation from Honduras for the European Union to observe elections in the country, and welcome the preliminary findings of the EU Election Observation Mission. I thank MEP Ulrike Lunacek, Chief Observer of the EU Election Observation Mission, which deployed over 90 observers, and the Delegation from the European Parliament. The mission will soon issue its final report on the elections including recommendations for the future.

I trust that any issues arising from the elections will be addressed to the Electoral Tribunal and the established judicial mechanisms, and I am confident they will be dealt with fairly and swiftly. The EU appeals to all parties to maintain a peaceful and democratic spirit.
With the adoption of the EU – Central America Association Agreement, relations between the EU and Honduras have entered a new phase. I look forward to deepening further the European Union's relations on political, economic, trade and social development matters with the new authorities. The European Union remains committed to support the strengthening of democratic institutions, human rights and development in Honduras.”