STATEMENT

by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton

on the presidential and parliamentary elections in Madagascar

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 welcomes the peaceful conduct of the second round of presidential and parliamentary elections in Madagascar. She commends the citizens of Madagascar who have freely expressed their choice, confirming their determination to complete the process of democratic transition. She also commends the Malagasy electoral authorities and political players for contributing to the smooth running of the elections so far.

The High Representative would like to thank Ms Muñiz de Urquiza, MEP and Chief Observer of the EU election observation mission (EU EOM) and her team for their work and support during the process. She takes note of the EU EOM’s preliminary findings and, pending announcement of the official results, urges all stakeholders in the election process to show restraint and respect for the legal procedures established as part of that process.

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The High Representative urges all political players in Madagascar to keep up their efforts in order to establish the new institutions resulting from the elections and thus complete the transition process which is provided for by the Roadmap and which should mark the end of the protracted political crisis in Madagascar which has dragged on since 2009."