Brussels, 30 January 2014
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STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on
the coming elections in Thailand

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 deplores the increasing violence in Thailand and continues to urge all to engage in political dialogue to resolve differences, to respect the democratic process and uphold the rule of law.

While we respect that this is a matter for the Thai people to resolve, the High Representative is concerned by any actions that undermine Thailand's democratic framework: the Thai people should be as free to exercise their democratic right to vote as to express their right to peaceful protest.

In this difficult period for Thailand, it is essential to avoid a deterioration of the situation. The High Representative calls on all stakeholders to show the utmost restraint. Thailand's future is the shared responsibility of all parties. Only a real dialogue between the authorities and the opposition aimed at finding a lasting political solution based on democratic principles within the constitutional framework offers a way forward."

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