STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the
occasion of the 2nd High level Binational Dialogue
between Dominican Republic and Haiti

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 European Union welcomes the initiative of the Dominican Republic and Haiti to hold regular dialogue on binational issues, to which the EU as well as the United Nations, CARICOM and Venezuela have been invited as observers. The EU is ready to support this dialogue process by sharing its experience of issues including trade and customs facilitation, security, fight against drug trafficking, border management, migration policies and environmental protection.

The European Union is convinced that open and constructive dialogue is the best way to strengthen bilateral relations and foster political stability and economic prosperity in both countries.

The European Union welcomes the commitment taken by the Dominican Republic at the first High Level Binational Dialogue in order "to take concrete measures to safeguard basic rights of persons of Haitian descent". While recognising the sovereign right of the Dominican Republic to determine its policies on nationality and migration, the European Union encourages a rapid implementation of the necessary measures in line with universal human rights standards."