STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the evacuation by protesters of the Kiev City administration

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 welcome that several important steps have been undertaken during the last few days to de-escalate the situation in Ukraine, thus contributing to a Ukrainian way out from the current political crisis.

In particular I welcome today's evacuation by activists of the Kiev City administration building as well as several other administrative buildings throughout the country. These are important steps and I commend the role played by the Swiss OSCE Chairman-in-Office in this context.

I also welcome that nearly all Maidan activists have been released from pre-trial detention during the past days. I call upon the Ukrainian authorities to close now all pending court cases, including all house arrests. I expect such action to be taken without delay so as to facilitate the political dialogue in Parliament this week."

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