STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the latest developments in Ukraine

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"The European Union is following minute by minute the rapidly changing political situation in Ukraine. I call on all sides to continue engaging in a meaningful dialogue to fulfil the legitimate democratic aspirations of the Ukrainian people.

The European Union expects everyone in Ukraine to behave responsibly with a view to protect the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the country. I call on everyone to abide by the rule of the law and the Constitution.

We need a lasting solution to the political crisis. This must include constitutional reform, the formation of a new inclusive government and the creation of the conditions for democratic elections. Following the agreement reached by the sides on 21 February, we remain fully committed to support an inclusive political process, help de-escalate the situation and to assist Ukraine in the process of reform. These steps could deliver a stable, prosperous and democratic future for all Ukraine's citizens.

Furthermore, I welcome today’s release of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Timoshenko after more than two and a half years in detention. This comes as an important step forward in view of addressing concerns regarding selective justice in the country."

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