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Statement by the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and the European Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs on the return to constitutional rule in Madagascar

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, and Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development, issued the following statement today:

"We welcome the establishment of new institutions in Madagascar following on from credible presidential and parliamentary elections. This major step marks the country's return to constitutional rule and constitutes the starting point for the strengthened democracy, rule of law, sound governance and political stability that Madagascar needs. It clears the way for the full normalisation of relations between the European Union and Madagascar and the complete resumption of development cooperation.

We strongly encourage the President, the Prime Minister and his government, and all the Malagasy authorities to work together to ensure a bright and sustainable economic and social future for all of the country's citizens."

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