S T A T E M E N T

Statement by the Spokesperson following the second round of the presidential election in Guinea Bissau

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:

"We congratulate the people of Guinea Bissau, who have demonstrated once again their sense of responsibility and their commitment to democracy by voting peacefully and in high numbers in the second round of the presidential election on 18 May.

All political and military stakeholders must respect the will of the people. The electoral process needs to run its course in full transparency and fairness. Any disputes regarding the results must be resolved through the appropriate legal channels.

The European Union Electoral Observation Mission, headed by the Member of the European Parliament, Mr Krzysztof Lisek, will shortly present its preliminary assessment on the election process.

These elections are a major milestone on the road to democracy and stability, as it is essential there is a legitimate government, endorsed by the people, to provide the stability for development to resume. All parties should work together to pursue the necessary reforms to re-build and develop the country.

The EU is committed to supporting Guinea-Bissauans in pursuing this goal.
The EU re-affirms its full support to ECOWAS, the UN, the AU, the CPLP and other international partners, for their continuing efforts to help the country to move towards constitutional normalcy and political stability."