Declaration by High Representative Catherine Ashton on behalf of the European Union on the need for political reconciliation in the Maldives

The European Union remains concerned over continued political unrest in the Maldives. It is important that a process that will lead to political reconciliation and democratic elections is agreed urgently. The EU is ready to support such efforts.

I am glad that the Special Envoy of the Commonwealth, Sir Don McKinnon, has arrived in the Maldives to engage in a dialogue with all parties concerned and would like to extend my fullest support to his important mission.

I believe it is of utmost importance that political parties and authorities abstain from taking any action that could further complicate matters. Moreover, the security of the leaders of political parties has to be guaranteed.

Agreement on the holding of early elections, on the independent investigation of the transfer of power of 7 February and on the reestablishment of the correct functioning of government and parliament is now more important than ever.

The European Union will continue to closely follow events in the Maldives in cooperation with international partners, including the United Nations and the Commonwealth.
The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland* and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia, align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.