Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the political situation in Thailand

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission made the following statement:

"The European Union is following the political situation in Thailand, including the recent declaration of a state of emergency in the Bangkok region, with particular concern.

The EU commends the policy of the Thai Government to use as little force as possible against the protesters, thus setting an example of moderation and restraint in the region. I call on the Government to ensure that the declaration of a state of emergency does not lead to any disproportionate restrictions of fundamental rights and individual freedoms.

While recognising the need to restore order, no unnecessary force should be used. Any escalation of violence would only hinder the possibilities for future dialogue. I also call on all parties to continue dialogue within the legal framework so as to finally restore the stability which the country so much needs and which is necessary to advance our bilateral relations."