EUROPEAN UNION

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Statement by the spokesperson of HR Catherine Ashton on the Referendum on the formation of the Government of National Unity in Zanzibar

The spokesperson of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission Catherine Ashton issued the following statement today:

"The High Representative congratulates the people of Zanzibar on the peaceful conduct and outcome of the referendum which was held on 31 July. The result shows that a clear majority of the electorate supports the creation of a new form of Government.

HR Ashton considers that this is an important landmark in the process of reconciliation which should lead to the establishment of a stable environment for promoting long term peace and development in Tanzania. This result now provides a mandate for the two main political parties on the Isles to pursue their negotiations with a view to forming a Government of National Unity."

The United Republic of Tanzania will be holding General Elections on 31st October 2010 covering mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.