Statement by the Spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative/Commission Vice-President on the Presidential elections in Guinea

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:

"The second round of presidential elections constitutes a major step in Guinea's democratic process and development. The EU calls on all political leaders to act responsibly in this sensitive stage. Catherine Ashton is concerned by reports of serious incidents which took place after the announcement of the provisional results. She calls on security forces to show the necessary restraint when controlling unrest. Any escalation of violence could endanger the consolidation of a democratic civilian government in Guinea. The EU will not accept any step backward in the transition process nor in the handing over of power to an elected civilian government.

Catherine Ashton welcomes the presentation by the Independent National Election Commission of Guinea of the provisional results of the second round of the Presidential Elections held on 7 November 2010 and the work achieved by that Commission. She congratulates once again the Guinean citizens for their civic behaviour during this historical process and encourage all to address any possible dispute exclusively through peaceful, legal means. It is now for the Supreme Court to deliver the final results. The EU urges the Court to ensure that all the complaints lodged about alleged fraud are dealt with in full transparency and according to the law and urges political leaders to accept the final ruling.

Catherine Ashton appeals to the Guinean leaders to seek inclusiveness and to reach out beyond political party lines as it would significantly contribute to consolidate the stability and progress achieved in the transition process, paving the way for sustained development benefiting all Guineans.

The EU has sent out an Election Observation Mission throughout the electoral process, and provides financial support to the Independent National Election Commission and civil society."

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