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:

“Catherine Ashton welcomes the recent release of the two bloggers Mr Adnan Hajizade and Mr Emin Abdullayev (Milli) from jail.

The EU and its international partners have paid close attention to this particular case. In previous EU statements calling for their release the EU has stressed the importance of this case for freedom of expression, as well for the functioning of civil society in Azerbaijan.

The EU reiterates its commitment to assisting Azerbaijan in fulfilling its international commitments, in particular with regard to democracy, the respect for human rights, notably the right to freedom of expression, and the rule of law.”