Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and European Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle on Kosovo elections

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, and Commissioner for enlargement Štefan Füle made today the following statement:

"We congratulate the people of Kosovo on their elections on 12 December and the calm and orderly manner in which the majority of the voting took place. We also want to congratulate the authorities and the Central Electoral Commission in particular, for having organized these elections at such short notice.

The participation of the Kosovo people of all communities is very welcome. Now it is up to the competent authorities to certify the results and to deal with complaints and appeals in line with the relevant laws and regulations.

It is important now to rapidly form a new government and to elect a new President so that they can tackle the many challenges ahead.

We look forward to working with the new Kosovo leadership and to begin at the earliest the dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. We have much work ahead of us in the coming year so that Kosovo can further advance towards the EU."