Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the situation in Côte d’Ivoire

The spokesperson of Mrs Catherine Ashton, High Representative of External Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union and Vice-President of the European Commission made the following statement today on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire:

"The High Representative is concerned about the increasing tensions in Côte d'Ivoire and deplores the victims of violence during the recent demonstrations.

She calls all parties to remain calm and keep their self control.

She recalls that the final responsibility for the political crisis lie with those who prevent a rapid and peaceful transfer of powers to the President elect Alassane Ouattara.

The High representative recalls the conclusions of the Council of Ministers meeting of the 13th December, in particular the ongoing preparation of a first list of persons to be subject to restricted measures.

The High Representative supports the effort made by the African regional organisations, in particular Messrs Ping's and Gbeho's ongoing mission to Abidjan, aiming at a rapid and non violent handover of powers."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu
Darren Ennis +32 498 963 293 - +32 2 296 32 93 - Darren.Ennis@ec.europa.eu
COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu
www.eeas.europa.eu