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 High Representative has taken note of today's verdict by the Khamovinicheski Court in Moscow in the second prosecution of Mikhail Khodorkovskii and Platon Lebedev.
The European Union will continue to follow developments very closely, including the forthcoming announcement of the sentence.
As emphasised at the recent Summit that took place on 7 December in Brussels, the EU expects Russia to respect its international commitments in the field of human rights and the rule of law."