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

“I welcome the peaceful and serene electoral campaign and polling operations for these legislative elections in Chad.

I would particularly like to commend the great sense of responsibility of the political parties. This has been in line with the consensual framework issued from the 2007 Political Agreement aiming at reinforcing the democratic process in Chad, with the facilitation of the EU. I encourage all parties, be they from the majority or opposition, in fully and actively participating in the process of reinforcement of the Rule of Law in Chad.

I highlight the importance of the ongoing electoral process, laying the grounds to reinforce both peace consolidation and the social and economical development of the country, with a view to a sustainable democracy. The European Union will continue to support all efforts of Chadian stakeholders to meet these objectives.

I commend the Chief Observer of the Election Observation Mission of the EU, MEP Louis Michel, together with his team for the excellent work performed.

The EU deployed an independent Election Observation Mission, and provided a substantial financial and technical support to organize the elections.”