Statement by the spokesperson of HR Catherine Ashton on the liberation of FARC hostages

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today on the liberation of 6 hostages held by the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC):

“The High Representative has received the news on the new hostage releases by the FARC. The unilateral release of a number of persons held, some for several years, by the FARC constitute a step towards compliance with international humanitarian law. However, the kidnapping, on 10 February of two workers in the department of Cauca is in clear contradiction with the humanitarian spirit that, according to the FARC, motivates this measure, and the circumstances surrounding the release of the last two hostages give rise to some serious questions. The EU calls upon the FARC and other Colombian illegal armed groups to release all hostages that remain in their power immediately.

The High Representative reiterates the support of and the solidarity of the EU with the Colombian people and its government in their fight against terrorism, an end to all violence and for a sustainable peace in the country.”

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EUROPEAN UNION
Brussels, 17 February 2011
A 056/11

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