Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the proposed legislation on women's shelters in Afghanistan

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

"I am concerned by the Afghan Government's proposed changes to the regulation of women's shelters. I recognise that there is a need to provide monitoring and oversight of the shelters and to set up standards and guidelines for the services in the women's protection shelters.

However, a coherent and coordinated approach is needed that would guarantee and secure the continued and uninterrupted work of women's protection shelters, which is currently being carried out by the civil society organizations. I therefore encourage the Government to support these organizations, and so help to promote the protection of women's rights in Afghanistan generally."