Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on Ivory Coast

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

“I welcome the decision taken by the African Union's Peace and Security Council to adopt the conclusions of the Panel of Heads of State on the crisis in Ivory Coast. This decision is one more proof of the key role of the African Union and ECOWAS as guardians of peace and democracy in Africa.

I commend the members of the Panel of Heads of State for their thorough work seeking a solution that both safeguards democracy and achieves a peaceful resolution of the crisis, notably through the creation of a Government of National Unity under the authority of President Alassane Ouattara and the other proposed measures to facilitate peace, national reconciliation and reunification. I also commend the Presidents of the AU and ECOWAS Commissions for their determination and tireless efforts.

I call on all Ivoirian parties to implement the AU's decision, which has my full support. The EU stands ready to support the process of national reconstruction and reconciliation, as soon as circumstances on the ground allow.”