Statement by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on the release of political prisoners in Cuba

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

"I welcome the release of the last two remaining political prisoners from the group of 75 imprisoned in 2003, as well as the announcement of the imminent release of Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina, in prison since December 2010, and 10 other political prisoners. I want on this occasion to again recognise the significant role played by the Catholic Church of Cuba and the Spanish Government in this regard.

I encourage the Cuban Government to pursue this process and continue to make progress towards full respect for all human rights in Cuba.

The EU reiterates its intent to pursue its dialogue with the Cuban authorities and to support efforts aimed at improving the living conditions of the Cuban people."