Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton regarding certain aspects of the municipal elections in Albania

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

"Following the vote on 8 May, we have been observing the vote count and waiting for the publication of official results, before making a final assessment.

The narrow result in the mayoral elections in Tirana means that both sides need to reach out, overcome differences and find solutions. Developments today have shown the fragility of the political situation.

I urge all political leaders in Albania and in the city of Tirana to support the finalisation of the election process calmly, constructively and with a focus on the future. This must be done within the existing institutions and within existing legal framework, rules and practices.

All political leaders carry a particular responsibility not to put lives of citizens at risk."

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