Joint statement by HR/VP Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle on the parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, and Stefan Füle, EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, made today the following statement:

"We welcome the competitive, transparent and well-administered parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and congratulate the people, the political parties and responsible authorities for their contribution to this process. We particularly note the high turnout.

We call on the government to implement fully the conclusions and recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission. We are pleased to note that political parties have largely endorsed the election.

As a candidate for membership of the European Union, the country now needs to look to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The new government must swiftly resume the reforms necessary to continue the country's progress towards the European Union, and the opposition should contribute in a constructive manner in Parliament to the reform process. We underline the importance of the government taking steps to ensure good neighbourly relations."