Joint statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle on the announcement of the new constitution of Morocco

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 King of Morocco's announcement of the main elements of the new Constitution that will be submitted to referendum on 1 July 2011.

It is a significant step and signals a clear commitment to democracy and respect for human rights.

The proposed constitution touches on key elements of reform and modernization, such as the separation of powers, the strengthening of the government’s role, the independence of the judiciary, regionalisation and equality of rights between men and women.

Once fully implemented, it would be a major step forward in the process of reforms already initiated by Morocco.

It is now for Moroccan citizens, politicians and civil society to express their legitimate aspirations and decide.

The proposed constitutional reform is in line with the ambitions of the Advanced Status in the relations between Morocco and the EU. The European Union is ready to support Morocco’s efforts to implement such far-reaching reforms."

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 299 97 80 - Michael.Mann@ec.europa.eu
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu
COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu - www.eeas.europa.eu