Statement by the Spokesperson of the High Representative on women’s political participation in Saudi Arabia

The spokesperson of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission Catherine Ashton issued the following statement today:

"The High Representative welcomes the announcement by His Majesty King Abdullah that Saudi women will be eligible from next year to take part in the Shura Consultative Council, and will be able to vote and run for office in the 2015 municipal elections. She attaches great importance to supporting women's political participation around the world.

The High Representative encourages the Saudi authorities to continue on the path towards equality between women and men in political, social and economic life."

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