Joint statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle on the death of Kiro Gligorov, former President of 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 Štefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy made today the following statement:

"Following the news that former President Kiro Gligorov passed away on 1 January 2012 at the age of 94, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission Catherine Ashton and Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle wish to express their condolences to the family of Mr Gligorov and to the citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

As president from 1991 until 1999, Mr Gligorov guided his country through critical transitions, including the peacefully achieved independence from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Taking the country forward on that new path, he made important decisions to the benefit of his people based on his long experience and knowledge of his country.

May he rest in peace."