Statement by the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the elections in Serbia

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

"I congratulate President-elect Nikolic on his victory in the Serbian Presidential election yesterday and the Serbian people for the free, fair and peaceful elections.

Let me also commend Mr Tadic for everything he has helped achieve during his time in office, both in European integration and in regional reconciliation. I wish him all the best.

The EU looks forward to the early resumption of work in parliament and the rapid formation of a new government committed to reforms and continued European integration. Serbia needs a strong government and parliamentary majority to achieve the economic progress its people desire and the European integration that they aspire to. Neither is possible without difficult reforms and political courage.

Serbia will succeed only through successful coalition building at home and good relations with its neighbours. Continued dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina remains particularly important. Finally, I congratulate the OSCE for its successful facilitation of voting in Kosovo, supported by EULEX, KFOR and local actors who helped to ensure a calm and secure environment."

________________________