Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton following the meeting with Prime Minister of Serbia Ivica Dacic

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

"High Representative Catherine Ashton met today in Brussels with Ivica Dacic, Prime Minister of Serbia. This - the first meeting since Mr Dacic appointment as Prime Minister - provided an opportunity to discuss the upcoming priorities on the EU - Serbia agenda.

The High Representative confirmed the clear European perspective for Serbia and the whole western Balkans region. Last year good progress was achieved which resulted in Serbia obtaining EU candidate status in March this year. Today, both the High Representative and Prime Minister Dacic agreed on the need for Serbia to continue to move forward in the EU integration and reform process.

The High Representative emphasised that further normalisation of relations with Kosovo are key for Serbia’s EU perspective and in this context they discussed the need to continue and re-invigorate the dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade.

The High Representative welcomed the latest decision by the Serbian Government that will allow for an effective, inclusive and representative regional cooperation, but also underlined the need for all the agreements reached in the EU facilitated dialogue to be fully implemented."

_________________________________________________________

P R E S S

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 299 97 80 - Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@eeas.europa.eu
www.eeas.europa.eu

EN