Statement by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following the meeting with Prime Minister of Kosovo Hashim Thaçi

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 on Monday in New York with Prime Minister of Kosovo Hashim Thaçi as part of their regular exchanges on the progress of Kosovo towards its European perspective.

PM Thaçi confirmed the commitment of his government to advance on the European agenda. The High Representative welcomed the efforts of Pristina to make progress on the European track. They are both looking forward to the feasibility study for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement which the European Commission is due to adopt on 10 October.

The High Representative and PM Thaçi also continued consultations on a dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. PM Thaçi confirmed the readiness of Kosovo to engage in these talks. The High Representative said difficult decisions would be needed both in Belgrade and Pristina, and both sides needed to be ready to engage, including at political level.

The High Representative welcomed the recent progress in the implementation of the agreements reached in the dialogue so far and stressed that full implementation of all agreements is expected without delay.

Catherine Ashton will meet Serbian President Nikolic on Thursday in New York."

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