Statement by the spokesperson of the EU High Representative
Catherine Ashton on the appointment of a new government in Somalia

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

"The High Representative congratulates Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon "Saaid" on the appointment of his new government, following the endorsement of the government and its work programme by the Federal Parliament.

The limited number of ministries fits well with the necessary focus in implementing the key priorities spelled out in the work programme to provide security, livelihoods and services to the Somali people. The appointment of two women to prominent Cabinet positions shows appreciation of the vital role played by women in building the future of Somalia.

The EU looks forward to the new Government being fully operational and to developing close dialogue and cooperation with the new ministers. We wish them every success in working for the benefit of the People of Somalia. We also want to commend the work of Parliament exercising its role of oversight with the vote on the government work programme.

The EU remains committed to support Somalia on its new course to peace and stability."

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P R E S S

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