Statement by the High Representative on the first anniversary of the publication of the Report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry

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

“I welcome the publication of the progress report on the implementation of the recommendations in the final report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI), presented one year ago. I commend the efforts made during the past year by the Government of Bahrain to implement these recommendations. Much, however, remains to be done. I therefore call on the Government of Bahrain to remain committed to this task and to go even further, addressing in particular the socio-economic grievances of the Bahraini people.

The success of this process very much depends on the constructive cooperation between the government, the opposition and all Bahraini citizens. I urge again all sides to engage in a peaceful dialogue as rapidly as possible and without preconditions, rejecting violence in all its forms.

As I have already stated on several occasions, the European Union stands ready to provide support to this process, if and when requested by Bahrain.”