Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the elections in Venezuela on 14 April 2013

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

“I have been following closely events in Venezuela after the presidential election on Sunday 14 April.

I regret the loss of life in recent hours and call upon all parties to engage in peaceful dialogue and reject violence.

I commend the high participation and the orderly and calm conduct of the election, but I am concerned by the growing polarisation of Venezuelan society.

I take note of the statements by representatives of both government and opposition on the need for an audit of the vote as well as the subsequent announcement by the National Electoral Commission of Mr Maduro's election.

It is important that the outcome of the vote can be accepted by all and that appeals are duly considered by the competent Venezuelan authorities.

I encourage all parties to engage constructively to promote good governance and transparency.”