Statement by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the freeing of hostages in Yemen

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 is relieved to learn that the three EU citizens, an Austrian and two Finns, held hostage in Yemen since 21 December 2012, have now been freed. She expresses her gratitude to the Omani authorities and to Yemeni President Hadi and his transitional government who worked tirelessly, in close cooperation with the EU and particularly with the Finnish and Austrian authorities, to end the hostages' more than four month long ordeal.

Yemen is facing many challenges and therefore needs the support of the whole international community. A secure environment certainly helps the international community to assist Yemen on its way to a better and brighter future."