Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the agreement concluded between the Government of Myanmar/Burma and the Kachin Independence Organisation

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

"The High Representative is pleased to see that the Government of Myanmar/Burma and the Kachin Independence Organisation made significant progress in their negotiations. Their agreement of 30 May 2013 to hold a political dialogue and to work for the de-escalation of conflict and a cessation of hostilities is a most welcome result.

The High Representative applauds all sides for the spirit of compromise displayed. She encourages all parties to continue the path of negotiations, and to turn them into tangible results. In the meantime, full and unhindered access for humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons should be granted.

The EU will continue to work with all stakeholders, including civil society, supporting the peace process until its successful conclusion. The EU looks forward to a peace settlement that will address all grievances and meet the aspirations of all peoples in Myanmar/Burma."