Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the presidential election in Mongolia

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

"I congratulate the people of Mongolia for exercising their democratic rights in presidential elections on June 26. This is further proof of Mongolia's commitment to values such as the rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights, which are also the guiding principles of the European Union.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting Mongolia, where I got a first-hand impression of the progress achieved so far by the Mongolian people in building a functioning democracy, confidently facing the challenges ahead.

I would like to encourage the Mongolian authorities to enhance their efforts to address issues in the electoral process highlighted in the preliminary assessment of the OSCE/ODIHR International Election Observation Mission.

The EU is ready to assist Mongolia in this regard and to strengthen our cooperation, as proved by the recent signature of the EU-Mongolia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.