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## S T A T E M E N T

### **by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the election of a new Head of State of the Transition in the Central African Republic**

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

*"On 20 January the members of the National Transition Council in the Central African Republic elected Ms Catherine Samba-Panza as Head of State of the Transition. I commend the National Transition Council for its compliance with the provisions of the Constitutional Charter during the vote and I extend my congratulations to Ms Samba-Panza, wishing her every success.*

*This election is a significant first step towards restoring Central African authorities, responsible for completing the transition process. I call upon Ms Samba-Panza to proceed as soon as possible to appoint a new Prime Minister and government able to dedicate themselves to meeting the complex challenges facing the country.*

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*I call on all the dynamic forces of the country to demonstrate a sense of responsibility and to engage constructively and in good faith in a political process that could contribute to reconciliation and the restoration of social cohesion in the Central African Republic. In this respect, I restate the European Union's commitment to inclusive dialogue, to ensuring that those involved are representative, and to participatory processes to steer the transition phase.*

*The European Union is willing to work with the new government to restore order, rebuild the State and provide humanitarian assistance to the people."*

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