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## S T A T E M E N T

### **by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the presidential and general elections in Madagascar**

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 welcomes the announcement of the general election results by the Special Electoral Court of Madagascar. She repeats her congratulations to the Malagasy people, the President and the elected members of Parliament, and to all the authorities and parties involved in the electoral process that has just finished.*

*The High Representative agrees with the final assessment of the EU Election Observation Mission and is pleased that credible presidential and general elections have been held, in spite of some shortcomings that must be improved in future electoral processes.*

*The High Representative reiterates the EU's support for Madagascar and its President at the start of this new chapter for the country. She expresses a wish that the new National Assembly should be established promptly, that the Prime Minister should be appointed and that the new Government should be formed rapidly in order to restore constitutional order.*

*The High Representative welcomes President Hery Rajaonarimampianina's spirit of openness and reconciliation, and his desire for a break with the past, which will make it possible to restore confidence and return to the full normalisation of relations between Madagascar and the EU."*

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