



Brussels, 15 April 2014
140415/01

STATEMENT

**by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
on the start of a dialogue in Venezuela**

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 meetings that are taking place since 10 April between the government and the opposition and congratulates the UNASUR and the Vatican for their role in facilitating this process.

The High Representative believes that these efforts to bring all the parties to the table are an important step towards addressing the legitimate concerns of the people of Venezuela through continued and frank dialogue. The High Representative hopes that the national government, leaders of the opposition, students and the Venezuelan civil society can work together and find a consensus in order to overcome the current situation.

The High Representative recalls the importance of respecting basic human rights and the freedom of expression in all circumstances, and encourages all participants to aim at obtaining concrete results."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu [@EUHighRepSpox](https://twitter.com/EUHighRepSpox)
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu [@AshtonSpox](https://twitter.com/AshtonSpox) [Maja](https://twitter.com/Maja)
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Traversa Maria Lyra +32 2 2956368 Maria-Lyra.TRAVERSA@ec.europa.eu

Follow us on Twitter [@eu_eas](https://twitter.com/eu_eas)

www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService

www.eeas.europa.eu