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**Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP,
comments on recent developments in Montenegro**

Javier SOLANA, European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), is very pleased to hear that dialogue in Montenegro on the modalities for the proposed referendum has produced some first concrete results. A set of provisions aimed at improving the overall legislative framework was agreed this week in Podgorica by the parties. This is a good step in the right direction.

The presidents of the coalition parties (DPS and SDP) and the presidents of the opposition parties (SNP, DSS, NS) have all engaged in this process in good faith. They have already taken difficult decisions, showing the right spirit of compromise. Other important issues, such as the majority requirement, will have to be addressed soon and he expects all parties to be equally constructive.

What is needed is a solution which ensures the full legitimacy of the referendum process. A formula which does not prejudge the outcome in advance and which will encourage maximum participation.

This statement is attributable to Cristina Gallach, Spokesperson of HR Solana