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Declaration by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the European Union following presidential elections in Zimbabwe

The EU commends the people of Zimbabwe on the conduct of peaceful elections. It takes note of the declaration of the Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe which brings the electoral process to its formal conclusion.

The EU welcomes the constructive role played by the Southern African Development Community, African Union and domestic observers during the electoral process and shares the serious concerns raised in their initial assessments. It also takes note of the conclusions of the SADC Summit on 18 August and looks forward to the final reports of the observation missions. The EU underlines the importance and need to continue strengthening reforms to ensure that future elections are fully transparent and credible as well as peaceful.

The EU will review its relations with Zimbabwe, taking account of all these factors. Our goal is to support the Zimbabwean people in achieving a more prosperous and democratic Zimbabwe, as a sure foundation for the future full normalisation of relations between Zimbabwe and the EU.

P R E S S

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[*], Montenegro*, Iceland[+] and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan align themselves with this declaration.

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[*] The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

[+] Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area