STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on a new subscription to the Hague Code of Conduct against ballistic missiles proliferation

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 Saint Kitts and Nevis' subscription to the Hague Code of Conduct against ballistic missiles proliferation (HCoC), which now counts 137 members.

The HCoC is the only multilateral transparency and confidence building instrument concerning the spread of ballistic missiles. In the context of its Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their means of delivery, the EU believes that this important instrument of which all EU Member States are signatories should become universal.

The High Representative hopes that this new accession will help to build confidence and enhance transparency in the field of ballistic missiles. Despite the increasing recognition of the Code and the support by the UN General Assembly, a number of key States with important activities in the area of ballistic missiles and space launch vehicles have not yet joined it. She calls on all states who are not yet signatories of the HCoC to subscribe.

The High Representative commends the current Japanese Chair of the HCoC for the dynamism and efforts shown through outreach and demarches to non-subscribing countries worldwide."

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