S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by Niue

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 warmly welcomes the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by Niue on 4 March 2014 and congratulates the Government of Niue for their achievement. With its ratification, Niue confirmed its commitment to the objective of eliminating all nuclear test explosions worldwide.

Niue is the 162nd country to have ratified the CTBT. Universalisation and entry into force of the CTBT are a major objective on the multilateral agenda, and remain a strategic priority for the European Union as an essential element of advancing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The European Union urges all States which have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, in particular the eight remaining States whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty, to do so without further delay."

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