High Representative Catherine Ashton appoints new Heads of EU Delegations to Botswana and the Council of Europe-Strasbourg

Brussels, April 11 2014 – Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission, announced today the appointment of two new Heads of EU Delegations.

Alexander BAUM has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to Botswana. Currently Head of the EU Delegation to Malawi, he was formerly the Commission's Head of Unit for inter-institutional relations in the development field and has served in Delegations in Tanzania and Guyana.

Jari VILEN has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe (Strasbourg). Now Finland's Ambassador to Poland, he was formerly its Ambassador to Hungary (2007-2012), and before that had a political career as a member of the Finnish parliament and from 2002-2003 as Minister for Foreign Trade and European Affairs.

High Representative Catherine Ashton said: "I am delighted to announce the appointment of these excellent candidates to head up two of the EU's Delegations. Their talent and expertise are significant assets for the EU's external action and I look forward to working with them in their new roles".

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The new Heads of Delegation are due to take up their duties in autumn 2014.

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