P R E S S  R E L E A S E

High Representative Catherine Ashton appoints
new Heads of EU Delegation to
Eritrea, Lesotho and Madagascar

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission, announced today the appointment of three new Heads of EU Delegations.

Christian MANAHL has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to Eritrea. Originally an Austrian diplomat, Mr Manahl joined the Commission in 1996 and has done a variety of Africa-related foreign policy jobs in Brussels and in Delegation as well as secondments to the UN in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. At the moment he is political counsellor at the EU Delegation in South Sudan.

Michael DOYLE has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to Lesotho. Now working as Deputy Head of the FPI Unit responsible for the Instrument for Stability, he served previously as a crisis response planner and in the European Agency for Reconstruction in Kosovo.

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Antonio SANCHEZ-BENEDITO GASPAR has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to Madagascar. An experienced national diplomat, he served in a variety of policy jobs in Madrid on Africa and Latin America before becoming Ambassador to Ethiopia (2008-2011) and currently Ambassador at Large for the Sahel.

High Representative Catherine Ashton said: "I am delighted to announce the appointment of these excellent candidates to head up the EU’s Delegations in Eritrea, Lesotho and Madagascar, respectively. 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".

For more information

The EU’s relations with all these countries: http://www.eeas.europa.eu/countries/index_en.htm