Statement by the spokesperson of HR Catherine Ashton on the signature of the ECFA agreement between China and Taiwan

The spokesperson of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission Catherine Ashton issued a following statement today:

"High Representative/Vice President Catherine Ashton recalls the European Union’s firm view that, in the context of EU’s one China policy, the Taiwan question must be resolved peacefully through dialogue between all concerned parties. She appreciates and supports the efforts of both sides to find pragmatic solutions and peacefully develop relations. This contributes significantly to stability and security in East Asia. She welcomes the constructive measures to that effect which have been undertaken over the last years by parties on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

High Representative/Vice President Catherine Ashton welcomes the concrete steps taken at the fifth round of Cross-Strait talks between the Strait Exchange Foundation's Chairman Chiang Pin Kun and the Association for Relations across the Taiwan Straits' Chairman Chen Yunlin, on 29 June 2010, which resulted in signing the Cross-Strait Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement and an agreement on intellectual property rights.

The European Union believes that the expansion of cross-strait economic relations has a potential also to benefit the development of its already significant trade and investment links in East Asia.”