EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 14 December 2010
A 257/10

Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the passing of Ambassador Holbrooke

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made today the following statement:

"I would like to extend my condolences to the family of my dear friend Richard Holbrooke, who sadly passed away on Monday. My thoughts are with his wife Kati and his entire family at this time. I would also like to express my deep regret at his passing to all in the US administration, in particular Hillary Clinton and those at the State Department.

Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke was a remarkable man, a true diplomat and a champion of peace and reconciliation, not just in Pakistan and Afghanistan, but throughout the world in nearly half a century of service to his country and the international community. Europe will in particular remember his historic role in bringing peace to the Balkans. I am proud to have known Richard and privileged to have been his friend."

____________________

P R E S S

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu
Darren Ennis +32 498 963 293 - +32 2 296 32 93 - Darren.Ennis@ec.europa.eu
COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu
www.eeas.europa.eu