Statement by the spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative/Commission Vice-President on Vanuatu's recent accession to the UN Convention against Torture

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 welcomes the ratification by Vanuatu of the UN Convention against Torture on 12 July 2011.

Torture and ill-treatment are among the most abhorrent violations of human rights and human dignity. The UN Convention against Torture is the principal international convention prohibiting torture and ill-treatment, and the EU encourages all countries worldwide to ratify the Convention.

Vanuatu's ratification brings the number of States Party to the Convention to 149. The High Representative hopes that other countries which have not yet become party to the UN Convention against Torture will give consideration to ratification."