EU High Representative Catherine Ashton travels to Australia

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission, travels to Australia on Wednesday for a bilateral visit and to be a guest at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth.

Ahead of her visit, Catherine Ashton said: "Australia is an important partner for the EU. I hope that my meeting with Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd will further enhance EU-Australia relations through the launch of negotiations on an agreement which will cover issues including climate change, development assistance, energy, science and technology, education, human rights, counter-terrorism and non-proliferation.

The CHOGM meeting in Perth represents an excellent opportunity for me to meet Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers from countries throughout the Commonwealth, and to discuss how the EU can be relevant to them in areas such as democracy, security and development."

While in Perth, the High Representative will also participate in events on strengthening human rights, on empowering women and on fighting piracy.