Statement by the spokesperson of the EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on the 11th Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Ban Convention

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

"The High Representative welcomes the significant progress made in the fight against the suffering and casualties caused by explosive remnants of war, in particular by anti-personnel mines. Nevertheless, further efforts are needed to win wide acceptance for a ban on stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines.

As the 11th Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Ban Convention begins in Phnom Penh in Cambodia, a country which has been strongly affected by landmines, the High Representative calls on the international community to reaffirm its commitment towards a world free of anti-personnel landmines. Additional efforts are necessary to reduce the numbers of new victims, to provide sustainable care for the victims of these weapons and to strengthen the cooperation and coordination among all relevant parties.

The European Union is fully committed to implementing the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014 as an agreed basis for the fight against anti-personnel landmines and their effects. The financial support provided by the EU and its Member States to support mine action has surpassed two billion euros over the past ten years, which represents around half of the world's financial assistance to mine action."
We are resolved to cooperate with and extend assistance to those States that need support in meeting the commitments of the Convention and to continue to actively pursue the objective of "zero victims". Through inclusive partnerships between donors and affected countries, constructive ideas can be developed and concrete action carried out in support of all those affected by explosive remnants of war."