Catherine Ashton wins 2011 BusinessMed Blue Award

Brussels, 30 May 2012 - Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission, was on Wednesday awarded the 2011 Mediterranean Blue Award ‘Mare Nostrum’ by the Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (BusinessMed). The award is given for efforts to promote peace and economic development in the Mediterranean region. The winner is selected by the Presidents and members of BusinessMed, which brings together 12 national business organisations. The ceremony took place during BusinessMed’s General Assembly in Brussels. Started in 2007, this was the first time the prize has been awarded since the dramatic events of the Arab Awakening.

BusinessMed President Ouided Bouchamaoui said: “This award, that we have the great honour to present to High Representative Ashton today, is a symbol of recognition for her vision and work to promote peace and prosperity in the Mediterranean region, and to help create a genuine Euro-Mediterranean space.”

Receiving the award, Catherine Ashton said: “It is a great honour for me to receive the 2011 BusinessMed Blue Award. Europe has an historic responsibility to support the transitions going on in our southern neighbourhood. It is also a personal priority of mine. To help our southern partners, we have committed ourselves to helping build ‘deep democracy’. We also need to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic development, without which democracy will not take root.”

P R E S S

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