EU and Singapore conclude negotiations on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

Catherine Ashton, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, and Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law K. Shanmugam have today confirmed the conclusion of negotiations on an EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA).

"I warmly welcome the agreement reached by our negotiators on concluding negotiations for a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Singapore. This Agreement is a qualitative step forward in our bilateral engagement and complements and reinforces the Free Trade Agreement, for which negotiations have recently been concluded. The EU and Singapore already have long-standing and friendly relations. We work together bilaterally, as well as in international and regional fora, in particular in ASEAN where Singapore is a key player. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement reflects a renewed commitment to reinforce these growing ties and take our engagement to a higher level," said Catherine Ashton.

The PCA is a vehicle for developing broad-based and mutually-beneficial cooperation in fields such as non-proliferation, security, energy, maritime transport, air services, science and technology. It is based on universally recognised principles that we share. It will improve people-to-people links by facilitating mobility of students and scholars within the framework of the Erasmus Mundus programme and should open wider avenues to promote cultural exchanges and diversity.

Background
At present, the legal basis for EU- Singapore bilateral relations is the 1980 EC – ASEAN Cooperation Agreement. The new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement will give the EU- Singapore relations a new foundation, which is wider, up to date and more comprehensive. Following the internal procedure on both sides, initialising and signature of the PCA will take place at dates commonly agreed. It will enter into force after being ratified by the parties. Similar agreements have been signed with Indonesia end 2009 and with Vietnam and the Philippines in summer 2012, and are currently being negotiated with Thailand, Malaysia and Brunei. They are part of the overall EU engagement with the South-East Asia region and are in parallel with FTA negotiations completed with Singapore and on-going with Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand. More information on EU-Singapore relations: http://eeas.europa.eu/singapore/index_en.htm

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu
Eamonn Prendergast +32 460 753 293 - +32 2 299 88 51 - Eamonn.Prendergast@ec.europa.eu
Follow us on Twitter@eu_eeas - www.eeas.europa.eu