Joint Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
and European Commission Vice President Antonio Tajani, on the
Arms Trade Treaty

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, Catherine Ashton, and European Commission Vice President Antonio Tajani, Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, issued the following statement today:

"We are glad that the Arms Trade Treaty is open today for signature at the United Nations in New York. This is a key landmark in international momentum for the Treaty.

The EU has invested significantly in the UN process leading to the adoption of the Treaty by an overwhelming majority of UN member states on 2 April 2013. The EU has now completed its internal procedures, enabling EU Member States to sign the Treaty on matters covered by EU competence.

We firmly believe that the Treaty, when effectively and widely implemented, will contribute towards more responsible and more transparent international arms transfers. It is now crucial to gather the maximum number of signatures and ratifications so that the Treaty can quickly enter into force. The EU intends to continue to play an active role in promoting the effective implementation of the Treaty."

Press

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
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Sara TIRONI +32 02 2990403 - Sara.TIRONI@ec.europa.eu
CORAZZA Carlo +32 229-51752 - Carlo.Coraizza@ec.europa.eu
Follow us on Twitter@eu_eeas
www.eeas.europa.eu