Catherine Ashton to participate in EU-Russia ministerial meeting in Moscow and the inauguration ceremony of President-elect Yanukovich in Kiev

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission will attend the EU-Russia Foreign Ministers meeting in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on 24 February 2010. Issues to be discussed include EU-Russia relations, and topical international issues such as Euro-Atlantic security, the Iranian nuclear issue, the Middle East, Afghanistan, as well as Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus. High Representative Catherine Ashton will also attend the inauguration ceremony of President-elect Yanukovich in Kiev on 25 February 2010.

The meeting offers an important possibility to strengthen EU-Russia relations and to identify ways of making co-operation more result-oriented, both in the EU-Russia relationship, as well as in international and regional issues. Possibilities to intensify cooperation in the partnership for modernisation will also be discussed.

The EU-Russia Foreign Ministers' meeting is part of the regular political dialogue between Russia and the EU. The next EU-Russia Summit will take place on 31 May/1 June in Rostov-on-Don, Russia.

On Thursday 25. February in Kiev High Representative Catherine Ashton attends the solemn session of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, dedicated to the swearing of the oath by the newly elected President of Ukraine and followed by a short ceremony with High Command of armed forces.

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