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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **Ashton and Schulz joint statement on the European Consensus on Development**

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, signed today in the European Parliament the European Consensus on Development, in the presence of the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz.

President Schulz and High Representative Ashton issued the following statement:

"The European Consensus on Development is the compass for the actions under the European Union's development policy.

European Development Policy is a true success story of which the European Union can be proud. In a rapidly changing world, the EU must remain committed to this policy. It must continue to be the leading donor of official development assistance and remain at the forefront in the fight for the eradication of poverty.

With this signature, the High Representative gives renewed impetus to the EU's engagement towards developing countries.

#### FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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On the second day of the EU-Africa Summit and ahead of the European Year for Development 2015, this renewed commitment is both timely and significant. The signature underscores that the EU's determination to eradicate poverty is as vital today, the last year for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as it was when the Consensus was first signed at the end of 2005, before the creation of the EEAS."

### **Background information:**

The European Consensus on Development was developed inter-institutionally with a high level of involvement of the European Parliament, Council and Commission. It provides a common basis for all EU interested parties, identifying shared values, goals, principles and commitments, and confirms that reducing poverty is the key objective of development cooperation.

European Consensus on Development:

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/european-consensus/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/european-consensus/index_en.htm)

Commission Communication "Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change":

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/documents/agenda\\_for\\_change\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/documents/agenda_for_change_en.pdf)

European Parliament resolution of 23 October 2012 on an Agenda for Change: the future of EU development policy:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2012-0386&language=EN&ring=A7-2012-0234>

Council Conclusions "Increasing the Impact of EU Development Policy: An Agenda for Change":

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/130243.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/130243.pdf)

### **Note to editors:**

Audiovisual footage of the signature of the European Consensus on Development will be available for download on Europe by Satellite:

<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/ebs/schedule.cfm?sitelang=en&page=3&institution=0&date=04/03/2014>

Audiovisual and photo coverage of the signature will also be available here:

<http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/Default.aspx>