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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **High Representative Catherine Ashton appoints new Heads of EU Delegations to Botswana and the Council of Europe-Strasbourg**

Brussels, April 11 2014 – Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission, announced today the appointment of two new Heads of EU Delegations.

**Alexander BAUM has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to Botswana.** Currently Head of the EU Delegation to Malawi, he was formerly the Commission's Head of Unit for inter-institutional relations in the development field and has served in Delegations in Tanzania and Guyana.

**Jari VILEN has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe (Strasbourg).** Now Finland's Ambassador to Poland, he was formerly its Ambassador to Hungary (2007-2012), and before that had a political career as a member of the Finnish parliament and from 2002-2003 as Minister for Foreign Trade and European Affairs.

High Representative Catherine Ashton said: *"I am delighted to announce the appointment of these excellent candidates to head up two of the EU's Delegations. Their talent and expertise are significant assets for the EU's external action and I look forward to working with them in their new roles".*

#### FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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The new Heads of Delegation are due to take up their duties in autumn 2014.

**For more information**

EU relations with Botswana: [http://eeas.europa.eu/botswana/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/botswana/index_en.htm)

EU relations with the Council of Europe:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/organisations/coe/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/organisations/coe/index_en.htm)

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