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P R E S S R E L E A S E

High Representative Catherine Ashton appoints six new Heads of EU Delegation to Japan, UN Geneva, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mozambique, and the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission, announced today the appointment of six new Heads of EU Delegations.

Viorel ISTICIOAIA BUDURA has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to Japan. He is currently Managing Director for Asia and the Pacific in the EEAS, and previously served as Romanian Ambassador to China. He is an experienced diplomat with a clear focus on Asia throughout his career, including in Tokyo.

Peter SORENSEN has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva. Currently the EU Special Representative and Head of EU Delegation to Bosnia-Herzegovina, he has a senior level background in the EU institutions, as well as within the United Nations system.

Jean-François VALETTE has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to the Ivory Coast. He is currently the French Ambassador to the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville). With

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significant experience in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he has also served as Ambassador to Cameroon and to Togo.

Tina INTELMANN has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to Liberia. A senior national diplomat, she currently chairs the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC. Prior to that, she was Estonian Ambassador to the United Nations and then to Israel, as well as Political Director.

Sven KÜHN VON BURGSDORFF has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to Mozambique. He is the serving Head of the EU Delegation to South Sudan with a varied policy and geographical background in the Directorate General for Development as well as past postings in Cuba and Mozambique.

Leonidas TEZAPSIDIS has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Currently the Head of EU Delegation to Madagascar and a former Head of Delegation to Nigeria. He has spent his career working in the field of EU external relations, dealing with the Near and Middle East, Asia and Africa.

For more information

The EU's relations with all these countries:

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/countries/index_en.htm