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JOINT STATEMENT

on EU-New Zealand Partnership Agreement on Relations and

Cooperation (PARC) by High Representative for EU Foreign and

Security Policy Catherine Ashton and

New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully

"Building on the Joint Declaration on deepening the partnership between New Zealand and the European Union adopted by President Van Rompuy, President Barroso and Prime Minister Key in The Hague on March 25, 2014, we resumed work to complete the negotiations for the new EU-New Zealand Partnership Agreement on Relations and Cooperation (PARC).

Today we are pleased to announce the conclusion of the PARC negotiations. On this basis, both sides will finalise the remaining technical and legal work expeditiously so that the agreement can be formally initialled as soon as possible and concluded in accordance with the respective procedures of the two parties.

This new agreement will be taking the EU and New Zealand ever closer to each other in providing a robust and lasting platform for the future development of our relationships."

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