



EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 27 March 2010
A 43/10

**Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton
on agreement between the United States and Russia
on a new strategic arms reduction treaty (START)**

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission made the following statement:

"I warmly congratulate the United States and Russia for concluding the negotiations of the post-START treaty.

By reducing substantially the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads and delivery system, by establishing a strong verification mechanism and setting the stage for further reductions, this treaty represent a remarkable progress in the fulfilment of the disarmament obligations of the parties. It enhances the security of the contracting parties and of the international community as a whole.

The conclusion of this treaty will send a strong positive signal to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty Review Conference scheduled to take place in May in New York and will contribute to accelerate the global disarmament efforts."

P R E S S

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu

Darren Ennis +32 498 963 293 - +32 2 296 32 93 - Darren.Ennis@ec.europa.eu

COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu

www.eeas.europa.eu

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