



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 13 January 2010
5283/10 (Presse 3)

High Representative signs agreement between the EU and Australia on the security of classified information

The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, signed today, on behalf of the European Union, an agreement between the EU and Australia on the security of classified information. Alan Thomas, Australian Ambassador to the EU, signed on behalf of Australia.

Once the agreement has entered into force and the necessary implementing measures have been taken, the parties will be able to exchange classified information while being confident that it will remain classified by the recipient. The objective is to strengthen bilateral and multilateral dialogue and cooperation in support of shared foreign security policy and security interests.

On 30 November 2009, the Council had adopted a decision concerning the conclusion of the agreement between Australia and the European Union on the security of classified information ([14683/09](#)). The Council had authorised the Presidency to negotiate such an agreement in March 2009.

P R E S S

Up to now, there are eleven EU "Security of Information Agreements" in place, the first was signed in 2003. Others are being negotiated. Such agreements are negotiated under the authority of the High Representative.
