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**Statement by High Representative Ashton
on the ratification of the Rome Statute
of the International Criminal Court
by Bangladesh**

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 welcome the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court by Bangladesh on March 23.

This ratification, bringing the number of ICC states parties to 111, marks a further significant step forward in the international community's efforts to combat impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. I hope that this accession will encourage other countries in Asia to consider ratifying the Statute.

The European Union has long supported the ratification by Bangladesh of the Rome Statute and I am convinced that Bangladesh will make a highly valuable contribution to the Court's work.

I would like to seize this occasion to reiterate the European Union's commitment to the universality and integrity of the Rome Statute and call upon states which have not yet done so to accede to the Rome Statute."

P R E S S

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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