



EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 27 June 2012  
A 294/12

## **Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton following her meeting with the President of Georgia**

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

*"High Representative Catherine Ashton met today the President of Georgia Mikhail Saakashvili. She welcomed recent reform achievements in Georgia, and congratulated President Saakashvili on the good progress of negotiations on an Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, between the EU and Georgia: this agreement would establish a new contractual relationship based on the sharing of values and comprehensive approximation with EU standards and norms.*

*At the same time, the High Representative stressed the need to keep up momentum by consolidating democracy and by ensuring an inclusive approach to national development. She underlined the importance of Georgia's parliamentary elections in October, and the need for the electoral process to meet international democratic standards and be conducted in an environment of media freedom, fair competition and transparency. With a solid democratic foundation Georgia can continue to accelerate the process of EU integration which offers stability, prosperity and continuity.*

*Regarding the situation in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia Catherine Ashton reiterates the European Union's commitment to Georgia's territorial integrity, and the need to maintain engagement with the populations of both de facto entities to reduce their isolation."*

---

**P R E S S**

---

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 299 97 80 - [Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu)

Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - [Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu)

Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - [Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu)

[COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu](mailto:COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu)

[www.eeas.europa.eu](http://www.eeas.europa.eu)

EN