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Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle on completion of negotiations on the future Association Agreement with Georgia

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Štefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, made today the following statement:

"We are delighted to confirm the substantive completion of the negotiations on the future Association Agreement between the European Union and Georgia, including the establishment of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). During meetings with Georgian Foreign Minister Maia Panjikidze yesterday we expressed our appreciation for the commitment of the Georgian negotiating teams who have worked with dedication and energy since the talks began in 2010.

We look forward to the initialing of the Association Agreement at the next Eastern Partnership Summit that will take place in Vilnius on 29 November 2013, and to the subsequent signing of the Agreement as soon as the technical procedures are completed.

For both the European Union and Georgia this is a very important milestone, opening the way to comprehensive modernization and reform based upon shared values, political association, and economic integration with the European Union. This Agreement will have a direct impact on daily life and will bring Georgia and all its citizens closer to the European Union. It will build on existing strong co-operation between the EU and Georgia on international issues. We congratulate all those on both sides who contributed to this excellent result."

P R E S S

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