Brussels, 18 January 2014
140118/02

S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the decision of the General Assembly of the Syrian Opposition Coalition to attend the Geneva II Conference

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:

"*Today, the General Assembly of the Syrian Coalition of Revolutionary and Opposition Forces voted in favour of accepting the invitation of the UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon to attend the high-level international meeting to launch the Geneva Conference on Syria that will take place in Montreux, Switzerland on 22 January.*

The High Representative welcomes this very important decision of the Coalition, which faced many obstacles and was reached through the determination and courage of the participants of the General Assembly. The decision to send a Coalition delegation to Montreux will now enable the start of the process that should yield peace and launch a genuine political transition in Syria in line with the aspirations of the Syrian people to live in dignity, freedom and democracy.

The High Representative is looking forward to joining all invited parties in Montreux in this common effort."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu @EUHighRepSpox
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu @AshtonSpox_Maja
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Nabila Massrali +32 460 75 41 75 – Nabila.Massrali@ec.europa.eu
Follow us on Twitter @eu_eeas
www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService
www.eeas.europa.eu