



EUROPEAN UNION

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**Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton
on the ratification of the Rome Statute
of the International Criminal Court by Saint Lucia**

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 Saint Lucia on August 18 and congratulate the Saint Lucia Government for their achievement.

I am sure that Saint Lucia's ratification will serve as an encouragement to all those countries in the region, which have not ratified the ICC yet. The European Union has long supported the ratification by Saint Lucia of the Rome Statute.

This ratification is also in line with the commitments to work towards ratification of the Rome Statute taken by the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries under the Cotonou agreement.

The ratification by Saint Lucia, which is the second ratification this month, following Seychelles, and the third ratification this year, after Bangladesh, shows the continuous support for the Court by States in all regions of the world. A steady increase in the number of ratifications demonstrates that the Court is a reality, which everybody must recognise."

P R E S S

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