

## **Catherine ASHTON**

### **Personal details**

- British
- Born March 20, 1956 in Upholland, Lancashire, United Kingdom
- Married
- Two children, three stepchildren

### **Current duties**

- Since 1st December 2009, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
- 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009, Vice President designate, European Commission

### **Political career**

- Since October 2008, Member of European Commission
- June 2007: Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council
- May 2006: Privy Councillor
- 2001-2006: Minister in the Department for Education and Skills, the Department for Constitutional Affairs and subsequently Ministry of Justice. Responsibilities included human rights, freedom of information and equalities.
- 1999: Made a life peer in the House of Lords

### **Professional career**

- 1998-2001: Chair of the Hertfordshire Health Authority and Vice President of the National Council for One Parent Families
- 1983-1989: Director of Business in the Community

### **Other activities**

- 2005: Voted House Magazine Minister of the Year and Channel 4 Peer of the Year
- 2006: Voted Stonewall politician of the year

### **Education**

- Bedford College, London University

### **Languages**

- English: mother tongue
- French: intermediate