

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - November 12, 2007

## **MADELEINE ALBRIGHT TO HAND OVER LEADERSHIP TO MARGOT WALLSTRÖM OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

New York, NY. - Monday, November 12, 2007. [Margot Wallström](#), Vice-President of the European Commission, in charge of Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy will visit the United States this week to accept a new role as Chair of the [Council of Women World Leaders Ministerial Initiative](#)--a position held by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright since 2002.

The handoff will occur between the two leaders in a private meeting Friday, November 16th, directly after they give a press briefing at the Jumeirah Essex House in New York City on the occasion of the International Women Leaders Global Security Summit.

The Council of Women World Leaders, a network of 35 current and former prime ministers and presidents. The Council's Ministerial Initiative is dedicated to advancing democracy, gender equality and excellence in governance throughout the world by promoting ministerial level exchange on global issues. The Initiative convenes meetings for women ministers within a variety of portfolios such as health, education, environment, finance, economy and development, women's affairs and culture.

As a top leader in Europe, Mrs. Wallström joins this extraordinary group of women leaders who provide inspiration to women around the world. Her leadership in European Union-US relations, and interest in combining economic growth with protecting the environment and social policies make her a sought after expert around the world.

More information and press kit at: [www.cwwl.org/ministerial.htm](http://www.cwwl.org/ministerial.htm)

**Press Briefing: 10:45am, Friday, November 16th** at the International Women Leaders Global Security Summit -- Tivoli Room, Jumeirah Essex House, 160 Central Park S, New York, NY. Credentials may be obtained online at: [http://womenandglobalsecurity.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=0&Itemid=46](http://womenandglobalsecurity.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=0&Itemid=46)

*The Council and its Ministerial Initiative provide a global architecture for women at the highest levels of government to work collectively with both multilateral institutions and grass roots efforts. Members of the Council include Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, and Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile.*

*The International Women Leaders Summit is a project of [The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands](#) in partnership with the Council of Women World Leaders, the [Women Leaders Intercultural Forum](#) and The White House Project.*