

EU foreign affairs chief

In an arguably more important role than the EU President, Catherine Ashton will manage a €7 billion aid budget, head a new 5,000-strong diplomatic corps and travel the globe to represent EU interests



■ **1956:** *Catherine Ashton* born March 20, in Upholland, Lancashire

■ **1970s:** Studies economics at *University of London*

■ **1977-79:** Works for *Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament*

■ **1983:** Director of *Business in the Community* tackling inequality

■ **1990s:** Freelance policy advisor, chair of *Hertfordshire Health Authority*, vice-president of *National Council of One-Parent Families*

■ **1999:** Granted peerage to become *Baroness Ashton of Upholland*

■ **2001-04:** Junior Minister for Education, Constitutional Affairs

■ **2007:** Appointed to Cabinet as Leader of House of Lords

■ **2008:** Appointed EU Trade Commissioner

■ *Married to Peter Kellner, journalist and President of YouGov pollsters*