STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following her meeting with the Foreign Minister of Russia

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:

"High Representative Catherine Ashton met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov today in New York. They discussed bilateral relations between the European Union and Russian Federation, relations with Eastern Partners as well as the main foreign policy issues of international concern.

She welcomed the good cooperation on the Middle East Peace Process, the Iran nuclear file and other areas of international concern. She called on Russia to build on the positive momentum created by the agreement on chemical weapons to support international efforts for a negotiated settlement to the crisis in Syria.

The High Representative expressed the EU's concern about recent trade and customs measures taken by the Russian Federation towards certain Eastern Partners. She stressed that those measures were not in line with the principles that Russia had subscribed to, such as each country's right freely to define and conduct its relations with other States in accordance with international law.

The High Representative and the minister agreed to remain in regular contact on the main issues of international concern."

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