"Good morning.

Today’s Foreign Affairs Council is going to focus on three particular things that I’ll draw your attention to.

The first is of course preparations for the Eastern Partnership Summit and I’m sure ministers will take the opportunity to update themselves on the different aspects of our work with the six countries in our Eastern neighbourhood. It’s especially important because we want to strengthen and deepen our collaboration with each of them individually and as a group and so that will be the first item for us this morning.

Of course our Southern neighbourhood will also be on the agenda. Events continue in Syria, and our support for those who are dealing with the chemical weapons will be part of our discussion. We will also discuss the situation in Libya, which has had an impact on member states of the European Union, but we will also look at the situation inside the country.

I will also report back on my recent visit to Egypt. We’ve condemned absolutely all terrorist attacks that take place in Egypt and we’ve also talked with the government about reaching out to all people in Egypt for an inclusive Egypt of the future. When I was there I was privileged to meet with those engaged in developing the new constitution, those from the government and of course the political parties outside. It’s very obvious to me that Egypt is able to reach that inclusive society. It’s part of the culture of the nation.
And so while I'm worried about some aspects of what's happening now, I do believe it's possible to have a strong outreach and I do believe it's possible for the country to move to elections that will bring back what the people who went to Tahrir Square two years ago wanted, which is a democratic, peaceful and secure country.

And a word about the terrible humanitarian tragedies we have seen recently. You know foreign policy has a number of different aspects, but one of them is about trying to ensure that there is peace and security in nations to prevent the need for people to feel that they have to flee from their country. These elements fit together in terms of a broader approach that we take. It will feature in our discussion about how do we support the people of Libya, for example, with our border management mission, how do we work with those who are so deeply afraid of the situation in Syria. We remain the biggest donor, but we have to do even more to try and help people in these horrible situations.

I'm also delighted that we will have Daw Aung San Suu Kyi joining us for lunch today. In a few weeks I'll be travelling to Myanmar to chair the Taskforce we have set up, bringing together our strong economic and political support for that country, for the people of the country. Having Daw Aung San Suu Kyi here is a good opportunity to hear from her of the challenges that still remain within the country, of the issues of greatest concern to her and to the people."