REMARKS

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following her meeting with Mr Marty Natalegawa, Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs

"Thank you very much, Minister Marty, it’s a great pleasure and privilege to be able to meet with you in Jakarta. I’ve had the privilege of meeting you on many occasions, in different parts of the world, but it’s a special pleasure to see you here.

I came to Jakarta with three objectives in mind. The first is that I think we have real opportunity to strengthen the economic links and ties between the European Union and Indonesia. Indonesia is enjoying a growth rate of about 5%, which is extremely good but also challenging. I think there is more that we can do to strengthen the ties between our business communities and we discussed this morning one idea of how to achieve that - by bringing our business communities closer together to get to know each other better. I hope we will see a direct result of our meeting - that we will work and pursue our economic partnership to a higher level in an ambitious way.

The second objective was to strengthen our political dialogue. I’ve had the privilege on talking with you on a number of occasions, on many issues that we face globally, on issues that affect us, whether they are environmental issues, whether they are issues in different regions, as well as on ways of working together to strengthen our democracies, human rights and our capacity to collaborate. And I hope that as the direct result to this meeting we’ll be able to raise that to a higher level in our strategic relationship, and I very much look forward to doing that directly with you in the coming months.
And then thirdly, Minister, I came to have the chance to talk about some of the regional issues here and in the European Union. You are an important country in this region. You, Minister, play a tremendously important role in a region where there is a lot going on. You and I are both engaged in trying to support Myanmar in its future, you have played a significant role in the future development of ASEAN. And we in Europe want to help and support countries in this region through change and development. But equally we look to you and this region for the way in which you have addressed the challenges you faced and see the lessons that we too can take forward when we look at the challenges of our own neighbourhood.

So again may I thank you so much for your hospitality. It's a short visit but I hope to be back soon. Thank you."