REMARKS

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton upon arrival for the second day of the Eastern Partnership Summit,

Vilnius, 29 November 2013

"Working closely and collaborating with all of the Eastern Partner countries is something that is important for all the Member States of the European Union – and I think for all the Partners. Today is an important summit. We have so many heads of Government here.

With Ukraine, we are very, very clear that we want to have a strong relationship. We believe that particularly on economic issues there is much to be done together, to the benefit of the people of Ukraine – and to the benefit of the European Union. And to do that in a way that is complementary to any other relationship that they would wish to have – we absolutely appreciate that.

We think the intensive negotiations that have taken place, over quite a long period of time, have got us to a good point. It is of course for Ukraine to decide what it wishes to do. There have been some good and important discussions with President Yanukovych here. What I would say is that the European Union’s door is open, and it’s open because we believe this is significant and important – for them and for us – and I really hope that we will move forward as quickly as possible."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu @EUIHighRepSpox
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu @AshtonSpox_Maja
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Eamonn Prendergast +32 460 75 32 93 – Eamonn.Prendergast@ec.europa.eu
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