REMARKS

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton upon arrival to the extraordinary Foreign Affairs Council on Ukraine

"While I was at the Iran talks, I convened this Foreign Affairs Council to consider the terrible situation that is happening in Ukraine.

I also asked three Foreign Ministers - Minister Steinmeier, Minister Fabius and Minister Sikorski - to go on behalf of myself and the European Union to Kyiv. I've spoken to them twice in the last couple of hours. They've had a number of meetings and are currently in further discussions. I'll be reporting to the Council on what they said.

I have to begin by saying that our thoughts are with the families of the victims, with the injured.

We have said in all the visits to Ukraine, what needs to happen: the dialogue, the importance of moving on the constitutional issues and the importance of moving towards free and fair elections. We stand by those; and we stand by the people of Ukraine. The responsibility to stop this violence rests squarely with those in power and we urge them to do so as quickly as possible.

In light of what has happened, I felt it was important to bring Foreign Ministers together to consider all possibilities and to look today at what action we're going to take. In this context we're also going to discuss at the Foreign Affairs Council the possible restrictive measures and I'll report later on what we decided."

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