"First of all, can I welcome you Secretary Kerry to the External Action Service building and welcome your team. It is great to see you again. Ambassador, it is great to see you again and everyone else here.

It is a very important meeting for us today, because we have the Energy Council, but especially against the backdrop of all of the work and discussions we have been having on the situation in Ukraine. I want to make it clear that we have done a lot over these years to try and enhance energy security, in particular to integrate the European Union’s single internal energy market but more must and will be done.

When we had the European Council, a couple weeks ago, EU leaders made clear that completing the internal energy market by 2014 and developing the interconnections to put an end to any isolation of Member States from the networks by 2014 remains a priority. The European Council also underlined its efforts to reduce Europe’s high gas energy dependency and that those efforts should be intensified, especially for the most dependent Member States. And it called on the European Commission – and I am delighted to have with me my colleague Commissioner Oettinger – to conduct an in-depth study of EU energy security and present in June the comprehensive plan for the reduction of energy dependence.
So we meet with our US colleagues, following a successful summit we had last week, to focus on energy security but also with a clear focus on Ukraine, to discuss together joint action now and in the medium and long term so that we can strengthen the energy security of Europe and of its most vulnerable neighbours: Ukraine and Moldova amongst others. Working together, we hope that we will become more effective in our implementation and as we do so, we are always mindful of climate and energy policies.

The European Union will submit as should all major economies by the first quarter of next year our contribution towards the conclusion of a global climate agreement at the 21st session of the conference of the parties in Paris in 2015. I know that in Secretary Kerry we have somebody committed not just to environmental and climate change issues but also to the work we can do together on energy and I am delighted that we were able to schedule this meeting. Thank you for being here."