REMARKS

by the EU High Representative following the 3rd European Union - League of Arab States Ministerial Meeting

"Can I begin, Minister Venizelos, by thanking you and the government of Greece for all the incredible work you have done to make this a very successful meeting.

I was with you not long ago in this very room when we brought together the EU Foreign Ministers for our informal meeting, so it's a great privilege to be back here in this great setting and to be doing so with my colleague Nabil Elaraby, with the League of Arab States, and with the Minister of Morocco who has been the joint chair person with me.

This meeting has been about developing and strengthening the cooperation between the European Union and the League of Arab States. We already work well together in trying to tackle some of the challenges that we face but this has been about ensuring that we develop a more strategic relationship using the resources we have, to work together on all of the different issues that we face.
We have produced a declaration which I hope you will look at with interest. It covers a whole range of areas where we promise to develop that cooperation and where we also look at ways in which we can work together to try and solve some of the difficult challenges that our neighbourhood is facing.

But as I have said I want to, if I may, also pay tribute to all of the teams who worked together to bring this meeting to be the success that it has been.

This is the last time that I will be in the position of co-chairing this meeting, as I will leave office shortly, but it has been an enormous privilege to work so closely with the League of Arab States. I want to thank you my dear friend Nabil Elaraby for all the work that we have done together.

Thank you.

Declaration adopted at the Third European Union–League of Arab States Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meeting:

Joint Statement by the Third EU – LAS Ministerial meeting on the Security Situation in Iraq:

* Before adopting the declaration, in paragraph 24, the League of Arab States has requested to put in "Palestine". The EU is still discussing internally the name issue and its legal implications. Because of that discussion, at this point in time, the EU cannot commit to the name, but will not oppose the text in its present form.