Remarks by High Representative, Catherine Ashton on Libya in the margins of the Informal Defence Ministerial Meeting

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made the following remarks this morning before the informal meeting of EU defence Ministers in Gödöllő, Hungary:

"I want to start with Libya, I spoke with Ban Ki Moon last night to of course offer support from the European Union, to the work of the Security Council. They're meeting again today and you'll see in the press that there will be a strong move, in particular from the European countries to see the Security Council take action.

Secondly for the European Union it is time to consider what we call restrictive measures, to think about what we can do to ensure that we're putting as much pressure as possible to try and stop the violence in Libya and see the country move forward and that's what the PSC committee are discussing. This includes travel ban, assets freeze. All of that in the next few days, we'll see what we can do.

In addition we're in touch with US, I talked with the White House so we can synchronize what we do in the European Union with the international communities. I will speak to Hillary Clinton later today and meet her on Monday.

Everything that we do, our objectives remain the same, which is to see a feasible dialogue, to move forward, for people to be able to get to the democracies they clearly want, and in my recent visit to Egypt and Tunisia we have given the same message.

And that's what the people of Libya want, just as in any other country, they need to own the process and be in control of their country’s future."