Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following the NATO ministerial meeting in Berlin

High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission Catherine Ashton participated at the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Berlin today. They discussed the partnership between the two organisations. High Representative Ashton also debriefed the ministers about the Cairo Conference on Libya held on 14 April.

"The international community as a whole is working together to end the crisis in Libya. The EU is making a crucial contribution to those efforts and wants to see a rapid political transition. We also remain seriously concerned about the humanitarian situation in Libya and stand ready, if requested by the UN, to send an EU mission to support humanitarian efforts. Pending the request, the planning is at an advanced stage. And in this context we are coordinating with others, including NATO," said Catherine Ashton.

On the margins of the NATO ministerial meeting, High Representative Ashton also held a number of bilateral meetings, including with the Foreign Minister of New Zealand Murray McCully, Foreign Minister of Turkey Ahmet Davutoglu and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

High Representative Ashton also delivered a speech at the Commemoration Ceremony for the late Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, held at the American Academy in Berlin.