Remarks by
EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
at the opening of the EU Office in Benghazi

"It is a great honour to formally open the European Union Office in Benghazi.

Today I already had a great privilege of meeting people who will be the leaders of this country into the future.

I can tell the people of Libya and anyone in the rest of the world who is watching that we are very fortunate – those involved in the Transitional National Council and those involved in the civil society have great aspirations for the people of this country and they have the leadership qualities and skills necessary to take the country forward.

For me it is an honour to be able to be here and to formally open this office.

It is the symbol of the European Union being here, but also of the EU being here to stay.

And the commitment that I bring is not just that we will be here in these coming weeks and months, but also in the years to come.

And as Libya creates its own democracy, as the Libyan people move forward, the European Union will be there to support that process and to support the people."

Full coverage of EUHR visit to Benghazi available later today on the Council's TVnewsroom: http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu and Europe by Satellite.

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