Catherine Ashton, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, met in Beijing the Defence Minister of the People's Republic of China, General Liang Guanglie. In a very constructive atmosphere they discussed ways of improving bilateral cooperation in the field of Defence and Security Policy, more specifically on the crisis management and fight against piracy. They agreed that the two sides will hold a regular dialogue on Defence and Security; they also agreed to further training exchanges.

The High Representative and the Defence Minister also agreed that the two sides will hold a High Level Seminar on Defence and Security in 2013. The seminar will allow for high level exchanges on security and defence issues between the EU and China while reaching out to a wider audience among defence and security experts from respective diplomatic, military and academic establishments from the EU and China.