Remarks by High Representative Catherine Ashton, following the signature with Algerian Foreign Minister, Mourad Medelci, of three financing agreements, Algiers, 6th November 2012

"I wanted to say, Minister, what a privilege and pleasure it is to be here today.

This is a very important relationship for the European Union.

And the three agreements we have just signed are a manifestation of that importance.

You can never underestimate the importance of investing in our young people. So I hope the agreement we have signed to support young people will be of great value.

And as you have just said, Minister, it is so important to protect culture and heritage and to celebrate the unique nature of Algeria. So I hope the agreement we have signed on culture and heritage will play its part in supporting that which is treasured here.

And transport: that's such a vital part of developing infrastructure. Transport is vital for people to be able to work and to be able to enjoy life. So again I hope the agreement we have signed will help to provide extra support for transport and infrastructure.

These agreements are worth a total of 58 million euros. It's just one expression of the strength of the relationship and the way the EU intends to work together with Algeria.

So, Minister, I look forward to many years of strong cooperation and I wish you every success.

Thank you."