



Brussels, 10 February 2014  
140210/01

## R E M A R K S

### **by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on arrival at the Foreign Affairs Council**

*"Good morning.*

*I have had a very interesting ministerial dialogue with Turkey this morning which has been very important in developing and strengthening the work that we do together. Not surprisingly, Foreign Minister Davutoğlu and I have talked about some of the strategic issues that will also be part of the agenda of the Foreign Affairs Council today.*

*I will have an opportunity to reflect with colleagues on my recent visits to Ukraine and the developing situation there. As I have said in many press points in Ukraine, we stand ready to support the process of dialogue which is so important to try and end the crisis there. We stand ready too, within the reforms that need to be made, with our economic support and we are in touch with many other countries and institutions on this issue.*

*Syria is never far from our thoughts today. You have seen in Geneva the bringing back together of the opposition groups with the regime. I wish Lakhdar Brahimi every possible success both in trying to help get badly needed humanitarian support into Syria and also in trying to find a way through, building on Geneva I. We will keep closely in touch with him in that way.*

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- [Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu) @EUHighRepSpox  
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - [Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu) @AshtonSpox Maja  
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - [Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu)

Follow us on Twitter [@eu\\_eeas](https://twitter.com/eu_eeas)

[www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService](https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService)

[www.eeas.europa.eu](http://www.eeas.europa.eu)

*The broader issues of our Southern Neighbourhood are never far away. I am very concerned about the violence in Iraq that we have seen in recent days and which has been escalating. We are of course very interested in what is happening in Tunisia: President Van Rompuy was there on Friday. Today will also be an opportunity to talk about developments in Yemen and to look across the region broadly, and not least thinking about the next steps in our relationship with Egypt.*

*Regarding the situation in Egypt - we have been absolutely clear that any violence needs to stop and the attacks, which are terrorist attacks, need to stop immediately. We also know that there needs to be an inclusive political dialogue and, moving towards the elections, a real sense that the people of Egypt can participate fully. So, we have tremendous support for the people of Egypt. We are good friends, but we are also critical friends.*

*We will also be thinking about the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the importance of the leadership being aware of the issues that have been raised and the opportunity they need to take to resolve not just the economic issues, but also the political situation. It is very important. There are plenty of leaders in BiH. It is time they started to really show that leadership and we all support them all the way.*

*Thank you.*

---