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STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following today's EU-Turkey Ministerial Meeting

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"It was a pleasure to welcome Minister Davutoglu and new Europe Minister Çavuşoğlu to Brussels today. Turkey is a key partner for Europe. We face together major challenges, we share extensive interests. So our expanding foreign policy cooperation was an important part of today's discussions.

Syria was at the top of the agenda today. We fully support the next round of Geneva II talks and urge results on improving humanitarian access. I praised Turkey's vital role in providing support to so many Syrians who have had to flee from their country. We also have a shared determination to address the threat of extremism coming from Syria, and agreed today to make that a focus of our future cooperation.

We also discussed Iran and our hopes for further progress to resolve the nuclear issue; and our determination to stay closely involved in supporting democratic transitions in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. We too spoke of the recent developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the need for the leadership of the country to urgently address the political, economic and social concerns so clearly expressed by the people. Finally, we discussed the worrying situation in Ukraine and how to support the efforts for political solution of the current crisis."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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