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R E M A R K S

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton

upon arrival at Foreign Affairs Council

"This morning we're going to begin the discussions at the Foreign Affairs Council with Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin of Ukraine, who will have an opportunity to brief the Council on the situation and of course on President Poroshenko's plan. We'll be very much looking forward to our discussions with him.

It's extremely important to be able to support what President Poroshenko is trying to do. Calm and peace is essential for the future of the country, not just for the obvious reasons of preventing people being killed or injured, but also for the country to build and go forward. So all efforts to be able to engage to ensure that we get peace and security will be essential. And we'll be looking at what more we can do, especially on our mission to try and support them with security sector reform. We also keep sanctions under review.

We'll also be focusing on what's happening in our Southern Neighbourhood, especially considering first of all Libya. My personal envoy Bernardino Leon is spending a great deal of his time working with the people in Libya as they build towards the elections on the 25th of June.

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We will of course spend a lot of our time discussing the situation in Iraq. UN Special Representative Nikolay Mladenov is joining us to discuss the situation, inevitably to discuss not just the situation in Iraq and Syria, but in the broader region. You'll have seen the news today about what's happening on the borders with Jordan for example.

So this is an opportunity to look at the region and to again, as I've said, discuss with Nikolay Mladenov. And then tomorrow I will be seeing Secretary Kerry who you know is in the region, and who'll be coming through Brussels and we have a meeting to discuss the situation. You've seen the appeal to make sure that we see inclusivity in Iraq. This is an appeal that we make all over the world to ensure that people are genuinely included not just in government, but also in the future of their country.

And I will be debriefing Ministers briefly on the talks with Iran that I held last week in Vienna."
