



Brussels, 22 July 2014  
140722/02

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

## R E M A R K S

**by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton upon arrival at Foreign  
Affairs Council, 22 July 2014**

*"Good morning. A very important Foreign Affairs Council this morning which will of course begin with hearing particularly from our colleague from the Netherlands about the terrible tragedy that took place in Ukraine in the downing of Malaysian Airlines aircraft MH17. Our thoughts are with the families and friends of all those involved.*

*All of you who have been following this awful tragedy unfolding are aware of our determination to see proper access to the site of the crash, so that loved ones can see the bodies of their relatives and friends brought home and treated properly and respectfully. The investigation needs to take place too. All of the information that you've seen coming out of different sources needs to be verified and we now need to look at the consequences of this. And we call on Russia to play its part in ensuring that the separatists really do engage with the monitors and engage with those who are trying to investigate the scene at the present time.*

*So the politics of today will be first of all ensuring that we're working absolutely in step with particularly the Netherlands, to make sure that everything we do fits into their needs, to be able to sort out the problems on the ground immediately, and then to instruct ambassadors, instruct COREPER and the PSC, and myself in how we go forward. The European Council asked us to look at the legal basis on which we're operating in order that we could potentially expand the sanctions. I think it's going to be really a strong debate and I think there will be a*

### 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\\_eas](https://twitter.com/eu_eas)

[www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService](https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService)  
[www.eeas.europa.eu](http://www.eeas.europa.eu)

*number of possibilities for how Ministers decide in the end they want to go forward, but go forward they will and must.*

*I think we've been extremely determined in our deliberations with President Putin. You know that many leaders have been in discussion with him and we've been very determined to try and make the situation on the ground a better situation, before the aircraft was downed, and we will continue with that. We have called upon Russia to do what it can do, and it certainly can and should do more to ensure that those who describe themselves as separatists leaders, looking towards Russia for guidance, get the strong messages that this is an unacceptable situation.*

*In the broader context we will continue to discuss the situation in Ukraine and you know we have the Eastern Partners meeting this afternoon where our colleague Foreign Minister Klimkin will join other colleagues to talk about the developing of relations with the European Union.*

*We're also going to talk about Iraq and the current situation which is deeply concerning there, and on the back of the last meeting when we had the UN representative Nikolay Mladenov, to be able to discuss what further steps we can take. We will also discuss the situation in the Middle East where we need to see a ceasefire in Gaza. I will take the opportunity to report back about the talks with Iran in Vienna which as you know I've just finished. There will be other issues too but I think I'll focus on those."*

---