



Brussels, 21 October 2014
141021/02

R E M A R K S

**by High Representative Catherine Ashton following her meeting
with Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia/Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić**

"Welcome everyone,

Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Dačić, my dear friend Ivica, what a pleasure to have you here in Brussels. I consider this your second home.

You and I have spent over 230 hours in dialogue and discussions, together with Prime Minister Thaçi whom I'll see later in the week, in order to try to work on some of the greatest challenges that your country has dealt with.

I want to pay tribute to you, and through you, to Prime Minister Vučić and to the team who have worked with you - for your courage, for your statesmanship, for your willingness to engage and to take your country forward. I know that in your current role you travel a great deal and you have consistently worked to show that Serbia is taking its place in the forefront of issues in the region and as a true future member of the European Union.

For my part I am pleased to have played a small and tiny part in this process, and the fact that we played a small part in ensuring that accession talks have begun. I will be able to look forward to Serbia becoming a member of the European Union.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu @EUHighRepSpox
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu @AshtonSpox Maja

Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu

Eamonn Prendergast +32 460 75 32 93 – Eamonn.Prendergast@ec.europa.eu

Follow us on Twitter @eu_eas

www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService

www.eeas.europa.eu

Thank you so much, in my final days in office, for coming to see me here in Brussels, I wish you and your country every possible success in the future."
