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REMARKS

Remarks by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini following the 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Luxembourg, 6 November 2015

Check against delivery.

Thank you very much and a really warm welcome also from my side.

We had two intense days of work, some of us actually three because we had - as always in these occasions - not only the formal and informal sessions of our common work, but also bilateral meetings at the margins, which is in itself one of the added values of this format that brings together for these two days 53 delegations, 53 partners around the table: 21 on the Asian side, 31 on the European side. I have said 21 and 31, which doesn't make 53 because there is one extra seat that is for the ASEAN Secretary General, who was also with us for the entire time of our work. Together these 53 delegations, most of them represented by Foreign Ministers or Deputy Foreign Ministers, represent about 60% of global population, of global trade, and of global GDP. So it is quite clear that when we come together we discuss, we take decisions and then we decide on the implementation of the decisions we take together, we can make a real difference in the world.

The main issues that we have discussed and taken some decisions on the way forward - which will also be issues for the Summit next summer in Mongolia - have been first of all on climate change. For this we will not wait until the next Summit. The COP21 [United Nations Conference on Climate Change] in Paris is in a few weeks and we have all agreed on putting all our efforts into making the conference in Paris a success.

The second issue we have discussed at length yesterday in the second formal session is that of connectivity, which is the key word in Asia and also in Europe. In Europe we have built up our connections through the integration process over the last 60 years. In Asia we have various related initiatives run by different actors that are extremely relevant and interesting also for the European Union to connect with. We have decided on a number of concrete projects and ways to share our experience on connectivity and to strengthen the linkages between our countries, covering different aspects of connectivity, be that physical infrastructures, transport, energy, digital connectivity and - I would like to stress this - people-to-people linkages with a specific focus on youth, students and their mobility.

We have had just now, this morning, a closed door session, a retreat for Ministers only, on the key elements of our regional and international agenda when it comes to security and stability. We have shared cooperation ideas on the migration and refugee issue, which, as you know, is at the very top of the agenda both in Europe and in Asia. On counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation in our societies - this is also another issue that is very high on our reciprocal agendas. Also regional and international issues like our common work to put an end to the war in Syria; to the creation of a two-state solution in the Middle East with Israel and Palestine; our common work on Libya. We have had a deep discussion on the South China

Sea and also on the developments in the Korean Peninsula, just to name a few, because the list would be long.

To conclude, we agreed on a [Chair's Statement](#) . We tried to focus, but still it is 9 pages, very comprehensive. You will find in it a common position on many of these points I raised. Even if it's a Chair's statement, it is a statement that we have shared with all the delegations, and that all the delegations feel comfortable with.

We had also a reflection on the role and the functioning of ASEM in the future, as we are approaching the 20th Anniversary Summit next July in Mongolia. We have discussed about the future, the future of this forum that is extremely helpful and useful.

And one final, final word on the EU's perspective on this. Asia is really at the centre of the EU's Foreign Policy and Security Policy. I was just considering this last week, as I - not celebrated, because we don't have much to celebrate, but as I - finished my first year of mandate: Asia has been, I think, the continent I visited the most apart from the Middle East and North Africa with five visits in the region. Korea, China, Japan, Singapore for the Shangri-La dialogue and Malaysia for the ARF and for sure next year many more visits will come. This means that since the beginning the new leadership in the European Union institutions is investing heavily and consistently in our relations with Asia. ASEM is a very important part of this commitment, because we really believe that we have a lot of common ground to work on in concrete terms.

Link to the video:

<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?ref=I111575>

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