



Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the Union

Vice President of the European Commission

Brussels, 16 May 2017

Dear colleagues,

Since the last Foreign Affairs Council there have been some important developments, which require our urgent attention.

The **security and migratory crisis in connection with the situation in Libya** continues to unfold against the background of some positive developments resulting from action taken at EU level. Further concerted action is needed to manage the situation there and we should give consideration to the option of using also our CSDP instruments in this context in order to tackle migration challenges as well as efficiently fighting terrorism.

We have pursued efforts towards engaging with the Libyan authorities and our regional key partners in order to manage this crisis, in full respect of our international commitments, including from a human rights point of view. We have conducted a number of high-level dialogues, as mandated by the European Council, in order to embed migration into our overall bilateral relations.

Finally we have been preparing comprehensive, tailor-made incentive packages in order to promote cooperation in the area of migration with priority countries. Next week's meeting will give us the opportunity to take stock of these efforts and provide additional political guidance.

The **Syrian crisis** is inextricably linked with the previous topic. There have been intense diplomatic efforts to halt violence and to restore the cessation of hostilities (CoH). The EU has launched a regional initiative on the future of Syria and hosted recently an international conference to address the humanitarian and political situation in this country and around it, as a follow-up to the London conference held back in 2016. The EU and its member states must be ready to assist in and enhance the monitoring of the renewed CoH, as well as renew efforts towards providing urgent humanitarian assistance to the Syrian population. The humanitarian crisis is reaching unprecedented levels – 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and 6.5 million IDPs.

Russia

As you know our policy towards **Russia** is based on the principle of selective engagement. Given recent developments and the role of Russia in key strategic crises, we need to reassess this principle and consider how it translates into concrete political choices.

Venezuela

The crisis in Venezuela is deepening and with the disengagement of other international actors, the EU is increasingly seen as a key and influential player. We need to determine what are the principles which should guide our action in addressing this crisis, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora, and spell out our position in the current standoff between government and opposition.

As you can see there are a number of key and pressing political issues we need to address.

For this reason I have decided to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council, on **Wednesday 24 May, at 9.00** (draft agenda enclosed).

The meeting will be exceptionally hosted by the Italian government in San Domenico di Fiesole, at the Villa Salviati.

I look forward to welcoming you in Florence.

Yours sincerely,

Federica Mogherini



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 16 Ma 2017
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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Subject: 3535th meeting of the COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Foreign Affairs)

Date: 24 May 2017

Time 9.00 - 17:00

Venue: Villa Salviati,

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. (*In the presence of Commissioner Avramopoulos and Commissioner Hahn*) The situation in Libya and the EU response to the security and migratory crisis

Debate

Coffee break

3. (*In the presence of Commissioner Stylianides and Commissioner Hahn*) The situation in Syria and the EU strategy towards Syria

Debate

Lunch

4. (*In the presence of Commissioner Hahn*) EU-Russia relations

Debate

Coffee break

5. The situation in Venezuela

Debate

6. Adoption of Council conclusions

7. Any other business

16:30 Press Conference
