PRESS INFORMATION
THE EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN AFGHANISTAN
THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO AFGHANISTAN

Joint statement by Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, and Salahuddin Rabbani, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Brussels, 2 December 2015

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We met on 1 December in the margins of the NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting to confirm the holding of the next Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan, to be held in Brussels on 4-5 October 2016. This Conference will renew international support and partnership until 2020, in parallel to the security-related efforts pursued in the NATO framework.

The conference will send a strong signal of hope, confidence and change to the Afghan people. After decades of conflict, our commitment to a better future for Afghanistan is vital if we are to meet the aspirations of Afghan citizens. We discussed the security challenges Afghanistan is facing and the need to work together for ensuring peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. The upcoming Heart of Asia Meeting in Islamabad (9 December) will be significant for meeting our shared objectives.

We agreed that next year's Ministerial Conference in Brussels should be a catalyst for mobilising much-needed political and financial support for Afghanistan's future with the help of our international partners. In this regard, the National Unity Government in Afghanistan reaffirms an equally strong commitment to reform and change.

We also exchanged views on the migration challenges we are currently facing. We agreed to hold a Senior Officials Meeting early 2016 to further our cooperation.

We will now focus on engaging in an effective preparation of the conference together, also along with the EU Member States as well as other key partners in the international community.

We are determined to strengthen our partnership in the interest of peace and development for our citizens.

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