



REMARKS

Federica Mogherini holds bilateral meetings in the margins of ASEM ministerial: the Rakhine State and the Rohingya refugees issues in focus

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The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy & Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, was today in Nai Pyi Taw, Myanmar, to lead the European Delegation at the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) of Foreign Ministers, gathering 53 countries from Europe and Asia under the theme *"Strengthening Partnership for Peace and Sustainable Development"*, presided by the State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Before the ASEM plenary, she had a bilateral meeting with the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Federica Mogherini, who reiterated her support to the democratic transition in Myanmar, discussed with Aung San Sui Kyi the situation in the Rakhine State and of the Rohingya refugees, after having visited yesterday the refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, in Bangladesh.

The High Representative prepared together with Aung San Sui Kyi an ensuing restricted meeting of European and Asian ministers dedicated to the crisis. She stressed the urgent need to stop the violence and guarantee full humanitarian access to Rakhine

State. She encouraged Myanmar and Bangladesh to swiftly finalise a bilateral agreement to ensure a safe, sustainable repatriation of the refugees, and asked for the full implementation of the recommendations of the Kofi Annan's Report. The European Union is ready to support the whole process.

Federica Mogherini also met with the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, Wang Yi. The two discussed many aspects of the broad EU-China partnership, with a particular focus on foreign policy priorities. They discussed the support to an agreement for the safe and dignified return of the Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, the common work for continued full implementation of the Iran nuclear deal, as well as their shared efforts to achieve the full, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula through peaceful means.

To the Foreign Minister of Cambodia, Sokhonn Prak, Mogherini stressed the expectation that recent, significant steps away from the path of pluralism and democracy enshrined in Cambodia's constitution, such as the continued detention of the opposition leader, Kem Sokha and the dissolution of the Cambodian National Rescue Party, will be swiftly reversed. She [recalled](#) that the European Union's development cooperation and trade preferences are reliant on the country's respect for fundamental human rights and democratic principles.

HRVP Mogherini also met the foreign Minister of Thailand, Don Pramudwina; they discussed the further development of bilateral relations, and the general elections that will take place in the country in November 2018.

The High Representative Mogherini had a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Norway, Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide, during which they addressed their common work as regards the Middle East Peace Process and other foreign policy issues of mutual interest.

More information:

- [Press release: High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini visited Bangladesh](#)
- [Remarks by the High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini at Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh](#)
- [13th ASEM Foreign Ministers meeting page](#)
- [ASEM website](#)
- [EU-Myanmar relations factsheet](#)

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