



## PRESS RELEASES

# Mogherini met the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini met the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini today met with the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, Mr Don Pramudwinai.

The meeting took place following the decision of EU Foreign Ministers in December 2017 to resume political contacts at all levels with Thailand in order to facilitate meaningful dialogue on issues of mutual importance, including on human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy.

The meeting highlighted the strong historic, economic and cultural links that exist between the EU and Thailand. The High Representative stated that the European Union looks forward to a progressive evolution of relations between the EU and Thailand, in particular in the context of holding elections, for which a road map has been drawn up. It is important that the envisaged timetable for the elections is respected.

The meeting also allowed for an exchange of views on Thailand's ongoing effort to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as well as labour issues.

Finally, the High Representative and the Foreign Minister discussed the situation in South East Asia as well as EU-ASEAN relations. High Representative Mogherini expressed her appreciation for the constructive role Thailand played as ASEAN coordinator for relations with the EU and looked forward to further enhancing the EU-

ASEAN partnership. The ongoing efforts to address the situation of the Rohingya was discussed. The High Representative and the Minister stressed that the bilateral agreement reached between Bangladesh and Myanmar on the repatriation of the refugees should allow for a voluntary, safe and dignified return to their places of origin.

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