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European External Action Service

Mr President, the European External Action Service should be a key instrument in making the European Union's external policy coherent, effective, legitimate and democratic. Yet if this is to be achieved, all of us - Parliament, the High Representative, the Commission and the Member States - need to do what we can and, at the moment, so much is lacking. This is all about giving practical expression to promoting the European Union's values and founding principles, which should guide its actions elsewhere in the world.

Peace and justice cannot be achieved without development, but there can be no development without human rights, democracy, rule of law or empowering women. Human safety and the responsibility to protect the public are central concepts in using tools for European external action and policy development for the Common Security and Defence Policy.

Given this, the European Union cannot continue to do without a seat on the UN Security Council. I hope, Mrs Ashton, that you will not waste time and that you will lead the European Union to engage in the urgent reform of the UN Security Council.