<u>News story: Foreign Secretary hosts</u> <u>talks with European foreign ministers</u>

The Foreign Secretary today (Sunday 15 October) held talks with foreign ministers from eight European allies.

Boris Johnson was joined by the foreign ministers of Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia at Chevening House to discuss shared challenges and the UK's continued committed to European security.

The Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

Our departure from the EU will make no difference to Britain's unconditional and immovable commitment to the security and defence of Europe.

This meeting was a further demonstration that the UK is a vital partner in the security of our continent.

The Foreign Secretary will tomorrow (Monday 16 October) travel to Luxembourg for the EU Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) where he will continue his discussions with European counterparts on the implications of the US announcement on the Iran nuclear deal.

The UK will continue to work closely with the international community to preserve the deal. In parallel with efforts to keep the nuclear deal, collective concerns about Iran's ballistic missile programme and regional activities must be addressed.

NOTES

The Foreign Secretary hosted the following European foreign ministers at Chevening today:

- Bulgarian Foreign Minister Ekaterina Zaharieva
- Croatian Foreign Minister Marija Pejčinović Burić
- Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Ivo Sramek
- Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjártó
- Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski
- Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu
- Slovakian State Secretary Ivan Korčok
- Slovenian State Secretary Andrej Logar