

## **Statement by the Netherlands and Turkey – 20 July 2018**

On 11 July, the ministers of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and the Netherlands met in the margins of the NATO Summit in Brussels. The ministers discussed the regretful events that took place in March 2017, which resulted in a deterioration of the relations between the Netherlands and Turkey. The two ministers underlined that Turkey and the Netherlands have been two friendly countries and NATO allies that have many common interests. They have had intensive relations for over four centuries, have been NATO allies for over six decades and enjoy substantial trade and investment ties. The two ministers stated their respective countries' readiness for normalization of affairs between Turkey and the Netherlands. They underlined the importance of strategic cooperation between both countries on a range of issues, such as migration, combatting terrorism and fostering economic cooperation. Following this positive meeting at the NATO Summit, both ministers took the initiative to contact one another again. The Netherlands' minister of Foreign Affairs wrote a letter to the Turkish minister of Foreign Affairs, whereas the Turkish minister of Foreign Affairs called the Netherlands' minister of Foreign Affairs. During this telephone conversation, the ministers agreed to normalize the diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Turkey. To that extend the ministers agreed to reinstate ambassadors in Ankara and The Hague shortly. The ministers also agreed that the Dutch minister of Foreign Affairs will pay an official visit Turkey in the second half of 2018.