STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following her meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"High Representative Catherine Ashton today met Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari in New York.

She underlined the EU’s determination to develop a lasting and mutually beneficial relationship with Iraq, based on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, the implementation of which is now making concrete progress.

The High Representative raised the EU’s growing concern about the escalation of violence in Iraq, which risks undermining stability, which is important not just for Iraq itself, but for the entire region.

She pledged to assist the Iraqi authorities in their efforts to combat the threat of terrorism. The High Representative and the Minister agreed to continue working together to find a satisfactory solution to the resettlement of residents of Camp Ashraf.

They also discussed ongoing diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful, negotiated resolution to the Syrian crisis."

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