STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following her meeting with Palestinian President Abbas

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 met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Brussels today.

The High Representative expressed full support of the European Union for the on-going Palestinian-Israeli negotiations which should lead to a two-state solution with the State of Israel and independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace, security and mutual recognition.

She also re-affirmed the EU's continued support for the Palestinian state-building efforts and reiterated the call for intra-Palestinian reconciliation as an important element for the unity of a future Palestinian state and for reaching a two-state solution. The High Representative and President Abbas also discussed developments in the region, especially the situation in Syria."

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