S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson on the ceasefire in Gaza

"We warmly welcome the announcement of a 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and call on all parties to respect its terms. There must be an immediate end to the loss of civilian lives. The firing of rockets from the Gaza Strip must stop.

We commend all efforts, particularly those of Egypt, to broker this deal and hope that this can be extended into a lasting ceasefire.

We call on the parties not to miss this opportunity.

We reiterate that the European Union stands ready to contribute to a comprehensive and sustainable solution meeting the legitimate security, humanitarian and socio-economic needs of the Israeli and Palestinian people."

___________________

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu @EUHighRepSpox
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu @AshtonSpox_Maja
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Nabila Massrali +32 460 75 41 75 – Nabila.Massrali@ec.europa.eu
Follow us on Twitter @eu_e eas
www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService
www.eeas.europa.eu