Statement by the spokesperson of the High Representative Catherine Ashton on Jordan's assuming the co-presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean

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:

“The High Representative is very pleased that Jordan announced yesterday its readiness to assume the Southern Presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). This is testimony to the traditional commitment of Jordan to foster regional cooperation.

More than ever, regional challenges call for regional answers. As a unique forum of 43 members from around the Mediterranean, the UfM is a key instrument for defining practical solutions to such challenges together through dialogue.

Co-ownership is an essential feature of the UfM. We need an effective co-presidency, fully representative of Mediterranean partners to set an ambitious agenda and guide the work of the UfM.

As Northern co-presidency, the EU looks forward to working with Jordan in turning the UfM into a catalyst for the development and financing of concrete projects that will provide tangible benefits to the people of the region, in coherence with European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument and synergy with the other regional stakeholders.”