Statement by the Spokesperson of 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 yesterday:

"High Representative Catherine Ashton met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in New York on Wednesday

In the discussion, the High Representative reaffirmed the EU’s commitment to the creation of a future sovereign, independent, democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel. The EU is determined to help bring an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and believes that substantive negotiations aiming at a comprehensive solution are the best way forward. Ending the conflict is a fundamental interest of the EU as well as of the parties themselves and the wider region.

The High Representative and President Abbas also discussed Palestinian institution-building and the economic situation of the Palestinian Authority, both of crucial importance for the resolution of the conflict. The High Representative repeated her call to all the donors to step in and help the PA to overcome the financial and economic crisis and to continue with the building of state institutions."

_____________________

P R E S S