Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on her meeting with Dr Nabil Elaraby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States

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

“Today the High Representative met His Excellency Dr Nabil Elaraby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, to discuss the situation in the Middle East.

The High Representative reiterated her support for the Arab Peace Initiative as she believes it provides important regional support for a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

The High Representative and the Secretary General will continue their discussions on how the European Union and the League of Arab States can deepen their cooperation in 2013 to break the current impasse in the Middle East and facilitate a return to negotiations as soon as possible in order to achieve a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The High Representative will work with the United States and other international partners, including within the Quartet, with the same goal in mind.

The High Representative also underlined her opposition to this week’s unprecedented expansion of settlements around Jerusalem. She informed the Secretary General that the European Union was closely monitoring the situation.”