Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the Middle East peace process

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

"I warmly welcome today's announcement on the Middle East peace process. Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas have demonstrated courage in reaching this point. Their demonstration of leadership gives me great hope that we may finally see progress towards the objectives which they share along with their friends and allies around the world: peace, security and dignity for their peoples. The European Union will want in particular to thank Secretary of State John Kerry for his determination in bringing the parties back together. Of course there are difficult negotiations ahead and difficult decisions to take. The European Union will make every effort to ensure that negotiations succeed."