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Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the formation of the new Israeli Government

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I congratulate Benjamin Netanyahu for his appointment as Prime Minister of the State of Israel and the new government, following the general elections on 17 March 2015.

The European Union will continue to work together with Israel on a mutually beneficial bilateral relationship as well as on important regional and global issues of joint interest.

The inauguration of the new government will also allow to re-launch the Palestinian/Israeli peace negotiations as soon as possible, with the aim of achieving a comprehensive agreement towards the creation of an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State living side by side with Israel in peace and security. The Israeli people and the Palestinian people deserve not only a future, but also a present of peace after too much suffering: entire generations have paid and still pay the price of a lack of confidence and courage. It's time for courageous choices for the institutions of both sides.

They will have the European Union by their side. I am ready to personally engage in order to facilitate further progress and look forward to working with the new government.