



EUROPEAN UNION

Cairo, 30 July 2013  
A 410/13

**Remarks by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton  
following her meeting with interim Vice-President of Egypt,  
Mohamed El Baradei**

Thank you very much for inviting me to join you at this press point. The future of this great country lies with the Egyptian people. The European Union is privileged to have an opportunity to help support this country going forward, and I came here because I was asked if I would help and try to talk with a number of different people to see how best that might be achieved.

You already know that I've met with many people, including General Al-Sisi, President Mansour, with you Vice-President, with the Foreign Minister, with Representatives from the al-Nour party, the Tamarod group, and others. I've met with representatives of the Freedom and Justice party, and I had a two-hour meeting with Mohamed Morsi last evening. I talked to him about what I was trying to do and I listened to what he had to say.

My message to everyone is the same: this great nation needs to go forward peacefully, any violence must stop, people need to come together, to find the road to the future together. Only an inclusive process will work, and though I recognize that this is challenging, it is really important to begin now. There will be people here continuing the efforts and I will come back in order to be of service. However, the truth is that it is the leaders of this country who must make the right decisions and go forward.

I'm always struck in my conversations here by the optimism that people have and the determination that people have for this country and for the future. The challenge really is to find the way in which you can bring people together and go forward, bearing in mind that the starting points are far apart. This is what leadership is about and this is what the challenge is for all of those who are privileged to play a leadership role in any aspect of political life in this country.

Thank you.

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**P R E S S**

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