



EUROPEAN UNION

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High Representative Catherine Ashton visits Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Israel and Palestine

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission, travels over the coming days to Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Israel and Palestine.

On Sunday in Jordan, she had an audience with H.M. King Abdullah II, and held talks with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh.

On Monday in Iraq, she met Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, Speaker of the Council of Representatives Usama Nujaifi, Deputy Prime Minister Sharistiani, and Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari, as well as Massoud Barzani, President of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

On Monday and Tuesday in Lebanon, the High Representative will have discussions with President Michel Suleiman, Speaker of the Parliament Nabih Berri, caretaker Prime Minister Najib Azmi Mikati, Prime Minister-designate Tamman Salam and caretaker Foreign Minister Adnan Mansour. Together with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, she will visit a community centre in Beirut which is helping out Syrian refugees.

On Tuesday and Wednesday in Egypt, she will meet President Mohammed Morsi, Foreign Minister Mohammed Amr as well as other senior ministers and opposition leaders. She will also discuss latest developments in the region with Nabil al-Araby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the High Representative will have talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni. She will also meet Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah. On Thursday Catherine Ashton will visit Gaza where she will meet UNRWA Commissioner General Filippo Grandi.

P R E S S

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780 - Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu
Sébastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Nabila Massrali +32 460 75 41 75 - Nabila.Massrali@ec.europa.eu

www.eeas.europa.eu

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Catherine Ashton said: *“This is a very timely visit to the region, coming against the backdrop of US efforts to restart Middle East peace talks. I will explore the possibility to further support these efforts and for the Israelis and Palestinians to re-engage in efforts towards a negotiated solution.*

I look forward to discussing how the European Union can continue to help the transition in Egypt.

The visit will also give me the chance to underline the EU’s increased support for the all those affected by the fighting in Syria. I pay tribute to all neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees.

I will also pass on our concern at the recent violence in Iraq and our desire to help Iraq get its transition back on track.”

Video and photos of the trip will be available on [Europe by Satellite](#)

For further information:

Michael Mann: +32.498.99 97 80

Nabila Massrali: +32.460.75 41 75
