



EUROPEAN UNION

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## Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the formation of a new government in Lebanon

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

*"I welcome the formation of the new government in Lebanon ending months of political and institutional stalemate.*

*I trust that the new government will promptly adopt its ministerial declaration which will advance Lebanon's reform agenda. The content of the declaration will be key for determining the possibilities for EU's cooperation with Lebanon. Important decisions and actions need to be taken to address the political and economic challenges facing Lebanon.*

*The European Union expects the new government to uphold Lebanon's international obligations including with respect to the UNSC resolution 1701 and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.*

*I reaffirm the importance that the European Union attaches to the independent and democratic functioning of the Lebanese institutions. We will continue our support at all levels in favour of a sovereign, independent, just, democratic, peaceful and stable Lebanon in the interest of the Lebanese people."*

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**P R E S S**

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