



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

Delegation of the European Union to  
the Republic of Lebanon

Beirut, 22 May 2012

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the situation in Lebanon**

The Spokesperson of EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton, issued the following statement yesterday:

"The High Representative is closely following the events in Lebanon and is deeply concerned at the outbreaks of violence in Tripoli and Beirut, which have led to the death of several persons and injury of dozens of others. The High Representative expresses the European Union's sincere condolence for the loss of life. These events must be duly investigated and followed by Lebanon's law enforcement authorities.

The High Representative supports all efforts aimed at maintaining order, defusing tensions and ensuring calm and security for all, throughout the country. Security forces should work together and with the judiciary to address violent incidents and security threats effectively.

The High Representative is also concerned at the killing of two local dignitaries by soldiers of the Lebanese Armed Forces in the Akkar region. The circumstances of their death must be promptly investigated and appropriate measures taken that respect the rule of law.

The High Representative reaffirms her commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, unity and stability."