



EUROPEAN UNION

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**Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
following the launch of the Yemen National Dialogue
18 March 2013**

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission issued the following statement today:

"The launch of the National Dialogue marks an historic step in Yemen's transition, for which I congratulate President Hadi, the transitional Government and the entire Yemeni people. I call on all those involved to engage positively in this Dialogue, so that the work is taken forward towards the adoption of a new Constitution and the preparation of elections, in line with the established timetable. These elections will lay the ground for a new Yemen that responds to the aspirations of the Yemeni people for a more secure and prosperous future.

The EU will continue to remain closely engaged throughout the process and to stand firm in our support to Yemen."

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
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Nabila Massrali +460 75 41 75 - Nabila.Massrali@ec.europa.eu

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