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R E M A R K S

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following the meeting of the Middle East Quartet

I just wanted to give you some feedback from the Quartet meeting which took place a little earlier this afternoon. When we met we were reminded that we have met in Munich before. And you know from the statements and the work that we have done, that the Quartet members are of course very committed and we reminded ourselves of that work.

This was also an opportunity to recognise the tremendous efforts that are going on. Secretary Kerry and his team are trying to bring together the Israelis and Palestinians in order to finally reach some kind of agreement. And we pay tribute to Tzipi Livni and Saeb Erekat for the work that they are doing, and also to Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas for the commitment that they have given to this process.

In particular we focused on the need to show the support that we have for this process and for our desire to see it succeed. And for example from the European Union perspective, we were talking about the way in which we have described what would be unprecedented support for both sides in the event that they are able to reach their conclusions.

The definition of that will come later, because it partly depends on how the work proceeds and in a sense how the agreements come together, which I hope they will. But it is important that it is recognised that there is real support to come from the international community, in support of the agreement.

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We will continue to work together as the Quartet. We will continue to make sure that we offer the support, to ensure that this is the conclusion of an agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians that will see a two state solution, as we have long set out to define.
