



Brussels, 21 March 2014
210314/03

S T A T E M E N T

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the Israeli settlement announcement

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

"I am deeply disappointed by the Israeli plans to expand settlements, advancing the construction of over 2300 housing units.

Any unilateral action prejudging final status issues threatens the current peace negotiations and, as a consequence, the two-state solution.

This has been repeatedly stressed by the international community. The 28 Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Union unanimously warned against actions that undermine the current negotiations and deplored Israel's continuous expansion of settlements. I urge the Israeli authorities to reconsider their plans and to reverse their decision.

The current peace talks represent a unique opportunity for both Israelis and Palestinians. A final peace agreement will bring huge benefits to both peoples. Such an historic opportunity should not be squandered."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu [@EUHighRepSpox](https://twitter.com/EUHighRepSpox)
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu [@AshtonSpox](https://twitter.com/AshtonSpox) Maja
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu

Follow us on Twitter [@eu_eas](https://twitter.com/eu_eas)

www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService

www.eeas.europa.eu