



EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 7 July 2011
A 271/11

Statement by the High Representative Catherine Ashton on the 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 the following statement today:

"Today's vote of confidence of the Lebanese Parliament allows the new Cabinet of Prime Minister Mikati to begin its work. This is a welcome development which will enable Lebanon to respond to the political and economic challenges it is facing.

I take note of the Government's Ministerial Declaration which highlights the importance of deepening relations with the European Union. The EU is ready to further develop its partnership with Lebanon and support the much needed reforms.

However, I am concerned by the absence of an explicit commitment to cooperate with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The STL must continue its work with the full cooperation of all parties. Achieving international justice and preserving stability in Lebanon are mutually reinforcing goals. The EU expects the new government to uphold all its international obligations."

P R E S S

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