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**Statement by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine  
Ashton after her phone call with the new Iranian  
Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif**

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

*"The High Representative called the Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif today to congratulate him on assuming his new post.*

*The High Representative underlined her continued determination and commitment to seek a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. She said that the E 3 + 3 were ready to work with the new Iranian negotiating team as soon as they were appointed. She confirmed the need for substantial talks that will lead to concrete results swiftly.*

*The High Representative and Foreign Minister Zarif also touched upon regional issues and agreed to meet soon."*

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**P R E S S**

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