



EUROPEAN UNION

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Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the situation in Egypt

Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, spoke to the Vice President of Egypt, Mr. Suleiman this afternoon to hear his assessment of the situation and press upon him her great concern over the unacceptable attacks on peaceful demonstrators.

Vice President Suleiman outlined the steps being taken by the Egyptian Government to advance the dialogue with all the opposition groups, including a road-map of reforms leading to the Presidential elections in September. He informed that the Egyptian Government is in the process of setting -up three committees: on constitutional reform, economic reform and public order and that the Government has invited all the political forces to join in a National Dialogue and agree on a roadmap of reforms.

Catherine Ashton reiterated the need for an orderly transition and for concrete and decisive measures now. She stressed that the demands of the people must be met with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. She urged him to ensure that the law enforcement authorities protect the demonstrators and their right to assemble freely and to avoid any further violence against those on the streets.

Catherine Ashton and Vice-President Suleiman agreed to stay in close contact in the coming days.

P R E S S

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