



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



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**Joint statement by President of the European Council
Herman Van Rompuy
and President of the European Commission
José Manuel Barroso
on the Gaza ceasefire**

We welcome wholeheartedly the cease-fire that has just been proclaimed in Gaza and that was being strongly called for by the European Union and the international community. It is now crucial to ensure its implementation and to prevent the restart of violence. The events of the last days stress the urgent need to move towards a two-state solution allowing both sides to live side-by-side in peace and security. The European Union remains determined to continue working to assist in achieving this goal. Finally, we reiterate our deep sorrow for the loss of lives on both sides resulting from this outbreak of violence and convey our condolences to the bereaved families.

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