

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the cease-fire in Lebanon**

The European Union wishes to express its deep satisfaction with the cease-fire reached in Lebanon, hoping that it will put an end to violence, and that the peace negotiations will continue also on the Lebanese Track, implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 425, and contributing to the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Since the beginning of the conflict, the European Union has deployed all its efforts in order to give its contribution to end the hostilities and to avoid the escalation of the crisis. The European Union reaffirms its commitment to pursue these diplomatic efforts aimed at promoting peace.

The European Union, while expressing its deep sorrow for the many victims among the civilians and for the material damage and suffering inflicted on the parties, intends to develop in direct consultations with the Lebanese authorities a European plan for the reconstruction of Lebanon and emergency assistance for the hundreds of thousands of displaced persons.
