

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the deteriorating situation in the Middle East**

The European Union calls on both parties to act with maximum restraint, restore calm and do their utmost to prevent actions resulting in new victims. Furthermore, it calls upon both parties to refrain from any unilateral action that may generate more violence and aggravate the crisis.

Events of the sort which have taken place during the last days will only aggravate the already very serious situation in the area. There is no military solution to the ongoing conflict. Only a resumed peace process can create the conditions for an improved security situation as a step towards normalisation. It is also essential that both sides continue and intensify their security cooperation.

The European Union deplores the recent increase of violence in the region and the daily loss of life among both Palestinians and Israelis. The Union offers its condolences to the bereaved families and its sympathy to the injured persons.