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S T A T E M E N T

**by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following
her meeting with Palestinian President Abbas**

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

"High Representative Catherine Ashton met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Brussels today.

The High Representative expressed full support of the European Union for the on-going Palestinian-Israeli negotiations which should lead to a two-state solution with the State of Israel and independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace, security and mutual recognition.

*She also re-affirmed the EU's continued support for the Palestinian state-building efforts and reiterated the call for intra-Palestinian reconciliation as an important element for the unity of a future Palestinian state and for reaching a two-state solution.
The High Representative and President Abbas also discussed developments in the region, especially the situation in Syria."*

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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