**EUROPEAN UNION**

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# Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on incursions by Syrian forces into Lebanese territory

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:

*"The High Representative strongly condemns the recent shelling of the Lebanese border area by Syrian artillery, causing several deaths and injuries.*

*The repeated incursions must stop immediately. The High Representative calls on the Syrian regime to respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of its neighbours. The regime's brutality has had tragic effects in Syria and serious repercussions in neighbouring countries, including Lebanon.*

*The High Representative commends Lebanon for its support to Syrians fleeing the violence in their country and reiterates the EU's support to help Lebanon cope with this burden."*

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**P R E S S**

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