**COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE**

**MEMO**

Bruxelles, 13 March 2013

# Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the death of Ahmad Shihadeh in Syria

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

I have learned today with great sadness of the tragic death on 12 March of Ahmad Shihadeh, a policy officer at the EU Delegation in Syria. He was killed during a rocket attack on the Damascus suburb of Deraya, where he lived.

I offer my sincere condolences to his family and friends, and to the colleagues of the Delegation. Ahmad died while providing humanitarian help to the community of Deraya. Ahmad was known for his courage and selflessness.

As we approach the second anniversary of the uprising in Syria, I call again on all sides to take urgent steps to end the violence, which has led to the deaths of some 100,000 innocent citizens and over one million refugees seeking shelter in neighbouring countries.