



كلمة

معالي السيد انطونيو كوستا

رئيس المجلس الأوروبي

في الجلسة الافتتاحية

لمجلس جامعة الدول العربية على مستوى القمة

في دورته غير العادية

العاصمة الإدارية - جمهورية مصر العربية

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Speech of the President of the European Council at the Extraordinary Summit of the League of Arab States on Gaza.

Your Royal Highnesses, Majesties, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear President Al-Sisi,

Ramadan Kareem!

Let me start by thanking you for inviting the European Union to attend this important meeting as the international community and the Arab States try to give hope to millions of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and abroad. And bring an end to the terrible suffering we have all witnessed this past year and a half.

The European Union is fully committed to contribute to peace in the Middle East. Committed to the two-State solution, where Palestine and Israel can live side-by-side in peace and security. And free from the threat of terrorism. Committed to support the efforts of the Arab States and the Palestinian Authority, as we have done for so long.

The respect for the UN Charter, the rules-based international order and international law have never been so much at stake as in current times.

Let me be clear. The European Union firmly rejects any attempt at demographic or territorial changes. In Gaza. In other parts of the world. Anywhere. Consistent with the UN Charter. International law. Our fundamental principles. And relevant UN resolutions.

The European Union calls on all parties to the ceasefire and hostage release deal to fully implement their commitments.

We commend all those engaged in the mediation efforts, in particular Egypt and Qatar. We sincerely hope that the talks on phase 2 will be successful.

This is very important. Not only to allow for the release of all hostages and detainees. But also to ensure a path to a permanent end to hostilities. A political solution that includes Gaza and the West Bank. A path of respect for international law, humanitarian law, for humanitarian aid to reach Palestinians, and civilians to be protected.

The European Union and its member states are supporting these objectives through increased humanitarian aid, namely by continuing to support the action of UNRWA, also through the deployment of the EU mission to Rafah (EUBAM), at the Rafah crossing point

Our support to the Palestinian Authority is also steadfast. The European Union supports the reform agenda of the Palestinian Authority. It will play a crucial role in the governance of Gaza.

The European Union is also using all possible tools in this regard, including diplomatic efforts vis-à-vis Israel and Palestine. Also, through the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the two-state solution.

Together with you and all other international partners, the European Union is fully committed to the reconstruction of Gaza.

Any viable reconstruction plan should cover all strands, especially reconstruction, governance and security.

Thank you to Egypt and all of you who have worked on the plan presented today.

The European Union stands ready to provide concrete support. Together, we should implement this plan. Together, the European Union, its partners in the Arab world and the international community.

It is in difficult times that you can count on predictable and reliable partners and friends. The recent developments in the Middle East have made the Arab League and its members ever more relevant for the European Union. We are partners to work on resolving tensions and addressing challenges in the region.

May the Holy Month of Ramadan bring the peace that we are all looking for. For the Middle East and elsewhere in the world.

Ramadan Kareem!