



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 23 February 2009  
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**Javier SOLANA,  
EU High Representative for the CFSP,  
visits the Middle East  
from Tuesday, 24 February to Saturday, 28 February 2009**

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), is travelling to the Middle East from Tuesday, 24 February to Saturday, 28 February 2009.

Mr Solana is travelling to Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, a few days before participating in the international conference in support of the Palestinian economy, for the reconstruction of Gaza, to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh on 2 March 2009.

In Syria, on Tuesday, 24 and Wednesday, 25 February, the High Representative will meet President Bashar Al-Assad, Vice President Farouk Al-Shara, Deputy Prime Minister Abdallah Al-Dardari and Foreign Minister Walid Al-Mouallem.

In Lebanon, on Wednesday, 25 February, Mr Solana will meet President Michel Sleiman, Parliament Speaker, Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Fouad Siniora and Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh.

In Egypt, on Wednesday, 25 and Thursday, 26 February, the High Representative will have meetings with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit.

In Israel, on Thursday, 26 February, Mr Solana will meet Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Likud Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been tasked to form the new government, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Defence Minister Ehud Barak.

In the Palestinian Territories, on Friday, 27 and Saturday 28, February, Mr Solana will meet the President of the Palestinian National Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, the Palestinian Chief Negotiator, Saeb Erekat, and US Special Envoy to the Middle East, George Mitchell. The High Representative also plans to travel to Gaza, where he will meet the UNRWA General Commissioner, Karen Koning AbuZayd, the UNRWA Director of Operations, John Ging, and members of the civil society and the banking sector.

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