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News stories

High Representative Josep Borrell visits Jordan in his first visit to the Middle East



In his first visit to the Middle East as High Representative, Josep Borrell met HM King Abdullah II of Jordan and Foreign Minister Safadi to discuss regional developments with an important partner on the bilateral and multilateral level.

“The experience over the past 50 years has shown that without agreement among all sides, no peace plan has the chance to succeed,” said High Representative Josep Borrell following his meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi.

Both parties need to come back to the table to find a sustainable way forward in one of the longest,

most painful and complex conflicts in history, Borrell added.

He said that Jordan plays a special role in the efforts to resolve the conflict as custodian of the Holy Sites, so the meeting was an occasion for a “frank debate on the new proposal brought forward by the United States, the so-called Peace plan for the Middle East”.

“The US plan challenges many of the internationally agreed parameters: the 1967 border, as agreed by both parties, with a state of Israel and an independent, viable state of Palestine, living side-by-side in peace, security and mutual recognition,” the High Representative said. The European Union and Jordan share the commitment to a two-state solution and respect for international law.

The High Representative thanked Jordan for the key role it plays not only in the Middle East Peace Process, but also in the region.

“We highly appreciate, Minister, the important role that you are playing in stabilising a turbulent region,” the High Representative said following his meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi.

The High Representative especially noted how Jordan has been providing continuous support to refugees from the region. “We are in the ninth, starting the tenth year of the Syrian crisis, which is unfortunately currently worsening. Worsening again, if we look at Idlib, where tens of thousands of civilians are driven from their homes following an indiscriminate bombing campaign by the regime and Russian aircrafts,” the High Representative said.

“We are talking about 4 million people. 4 million civilians that are trapped in Northwest Syria, among them 2 million children,” he added.

The High Representative acknowledged the important responsibility Jordan bears and the toll the regional situation is having on the country and its economy. Since 2011, the EU has allocated €2.8 billion in bilateral assistance to Jordan and will continue supporting the Kingdom in its efforts to bring opportunities to its youth and to achieve sustainable economic growth.

High Representative Borrell and Minister Safadi also discussed other regional issues, including the situation in the Gulf region, the Iran nuclear deal, the situation in Iraq, and the fight against Da’esh, which has to continue especially at this critical moment.

High Representative Borrell also met King Abdullah II of Jordan with whom he further discussed the need for Jordan and the European Union to work together for stability in the region and the Middle East Peace Process.

The High Representative underlined after the meeting that now would be the moment for Europe to engage and be united.

Audiovisual coverage of the visit can be found on EbS

HRVP Borrell will continue his trip with a visit to Iran on Monday, 3 February.

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