



EUROPEAN UNION



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PRESSE 213

**Declaration by High Representative Catherine Ashton
on behalf of the European Union on the ICJ advisory opinion**

The EU welcomes the publication of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. We are studying it with great care.

The advisory opinion opens a new phase. The focus should now be on the future. The future of Serbia lies in the European Union. The future of Kosovo also lies in the European Union. This is in line with the European perspective of the region and the relevant Council conclusions.

Good neighbourly relations, regional cooperation and dialogue are the foundations on which the EU is built.

The EU is therefore ready to facilitate a process of dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. This dialogue would be to promote cooperation, achieve progress on the path to Europe and improve the lives of the people. The process of dialogue in itself would be a factor for peace, security and stability in the region.

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