

Presidency Press Lines on Gaza

At their informal meeting in Prague on 29 – 30 January 2009, EU Development Ministers had an exchange of views on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, in the presence of the President of the Council, Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg, and the Commissioner for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel.

The following points were made:

- need to urgently open the Gaza crossings on a regular and predictable basis and to increase the number of trucks allowed to enter Gaza
- rehabilitation, reconstruction and sustainable economic recovery will only be possible if the Gaza crossings are open for humanitarian assistance, commercial goods and persons.

Furthermore, Ministers underlined the importance of:

- full respect for obligations under International Humanitarian Law
- a strong political process, resulting in the creation of a viable democratic Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel.