

**Štefan Füle**

European Commissioner for Enlargement and European  
Neighbourhood Policy

**Press Point with Dr. Jafar HASSAN,  
Minister of Planning and International  
Cooperation of the Hashemite Kingdom  
of Jordan**

Check Against Delivery  
Seul le texte prononcé fait foi  
Es gilt das gesprochene Wort

Visit of Dr. Hassan to Brussels

**Brussels, 16 march 2011**

Today I was very happy to meet H.E. Minister Hassan. We discussed our important bilateral relationship and Jordan's reform agenda. I have conveyed to the Minister my appreciation of His Majesty King Abdullah's recent announcement and determination to accelerate genuine political and economic reforms. I am encouraged by the determination of the government of Prime Minister Bakhit to progress further on political and economic reforms.

EU-Jordan relations are excellent. In 2010 we have witnessed the achievement of a major step forward in our bilateral relations: the "advanced status" partnership. The EU and Kingdom of Jordan have a strong partnership built on trust. Therefore we are ready to accompany Jordan on its reforms process and its efforts to strengthen democracy, rule of law and good governance, whenever it requires our assistance, be it technical, financial or other.

It is crucial to listen to the population's needs; at the same time, the authorities need to continue focusing on all the structural reforms that will make Jordan more prosperous. The prudent macroeconomic policies of the recent years must be continued.

In this context, we had an exchange of views on the Communication adopted last week by the Commission and the High Representative Catherine Ashton: "a partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean". This Communication, which has been warmly received by the European Council, sets out our intentions to support partners more effectively, notably in the areas of mobility, market access and greater financial support.

This Communication is a first step in the refocusing of our policies towards the Southern Mediterranean in order to be able to face the historical changes that are now taking place. We will shortly also adopt a communication on the review of the European Neighborhood policy. In the process of preparing this communication, we have consulted widely with partners, including the Jordanian authorities and I am grateful for their cooperation and input.

As I explained to the Minister, the EU is keen to ensure that partner countries which are ready to go further and faster with reforms will be able to count on greater EU support. This greater support will need to be matched by greater commitments from partners on all strands of reforms, including the political reform. In this context, it will be important to ensure that revision of the current temporary electoral law ensures free and fair elections in the future. We discussed the concrete ways of embarking on these reforms, not only in the weeks to come but in the longer future. We will together on a list on these issues.

Let me conclude by saying that the EU will continue supporting the Kingdom of Jordan in meeting the political and economic challenges which lie ahead. We are aware of the difficult context and are ready to support an ambitious reform agenda upon which we hope Jordan will continue to make tangible achievements in the fields of democracy, rule of law, good governance and human rights.