STATEMENT

Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the Legislative and Presidential Elections in Guinea Bissau

The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission Catherine Ashton made today the following statement:

"I welcome the successful legislative and presidential vote on 13 April in Guinea Bissau and pay tribute to the people of Guinea Bissau, who have shown a strong commitment to electoral democracy by turning out in high numbers and peacefully exercising their democratic rights.

I take note of the efforts by the electoral authorities of Guinea Bissau in the organization of these elections and encourage the National Electoral Commission to do everything to ensure full transparency and fairness of the electoral process until its conclusion.

I call upon all parties to respect the result of the election as an expression of the will of the people and to use exclusively legal channels to resolve any electoral dispute.

These elections are an essential step towards democracy and political stability in Guinea Bissau. The EU is ready to help with efforts to reform and consolidate the state, build a more stable society and promote socioeconomic development.

The EU's Election Observation Mission, led Krzysztof Lisef MEP, will remain in Guinea Bissau until the election process is completed."

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