STATEMENT

on elections in Iraq

"The EU welcomes the conduct of the third elections for the Council of Representatives on schedule and in accordance with the Iraqi Constitution. This is an important step in the construction of Iraq’s democracy.

The EU condemns in the strongest terms the acts of violence that sought to derail the electoral process and led to the loss of many lives. Therefore, we pay tribute to the courage of the many Iraqi citizens who despite the security situation, which in some regions prevented a normal conduct of the elections, went out to cast their votes defying the risks and showing, once again, their commitment to Iraq’s democracy and to participation in truly competitive elections.

The vote counting operation should now be completed speedily and transparently, leading to the swift formation of a truly representative government, able to address the many challenges facing Iraq."

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