STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson on Libya's parliamentary elections

"The EU commends the Libyan people who went to vote yesterday to elect their new parliament. They defied the often precarious security situation to make use of their recently gained democratic rights.

These elections offer an opportunity to put the transition process back on track and overcome the recent political polarisation. The EU trusts that the new Council of Representatives will, on the basis of past experience, be in a position to embody national consensus and play its role in forming a Government with wide political support.

We congratulate the Libyan High National Electoral Commission (HNEC) for organising these elections in a challenging environment. We recall our strong commitment to support HNEC and other key Libyan institutions in their efforts to promote democracy in Libya.

We look forward to establishing close relations with the new Libyan parliament and remain committed to support the Libyan people to achieve their aspirations to live in a democratic, stable and prosperous country.

We condemn the brutal assassination of leading human rights activist Salwa Bugaighis in her home in Benghazi. We also condemn the killing of three policemen in Benghazi as they carried out their duty to protect polling stations."

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