Declaration by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on the situation after the national elections in Iraq

The 7 March national elections marked an important milestone in Iraq’s democratic process. The close outcome is a reflection of a vibrant campaign, which led so many people from across Iraq and its communities to come out and vote.

It is for this reason that the European Union condemns the recent acts of violence which have escalated since election day. The acts must not deter Iraq from completing the ongoing democratic process, which should culminate in the formation of a full government.
The European Union therefore encourages Iraq’s political entities to engage constructively in the talks needed to ensure the prompt establishment of a stable government. We hope and trust that any incoming government will do its utmost to ensure that Iraq continues on its path to lasting stability, tackling unresolved issues of national reconciliation, proceeding with economic reconstruction and fostering constructive relations with its international partners and countries throughout the region. The European Union looks forward to engaging with that government as soon as it is in place.

The European Union looks forward to formal certification of the election results, following the due processing of all complaints and appeals in line with Iraq’s sovereign procedures and its constitution. The EU believes that it is very important that the result, once certified by the Supreme Court, is accepted by all the political entities as the choice of the Iraqi people and that a government is quickly formed.

The EU would like to take this opportunity to commend the Iraqi High Electoral Commission as well as the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq for their work in the period leading up to and following election day. The EU is pleased to have supported this work. The reports from EU experts deployed in Iraq presented a broadly positive picture of the process.