Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the opening session of the Egyptian Parliament

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

"Egypt’s Parliamentary elections, which saw a good level of participation from voters, are an historic step towards the country’s democratic transition. I congratulate the members of parliament and wish them every success in their work.

I hope that the Parliament will drive on the democratic reforms to meet the expectations of the Egyptian people for social rights, economic growth and fundamental freedoms.

I wish to congratulate Dr Saad Al-Katatny on his appointment as Speaker of the People’s Assembly in Egypt following its first session today.

I am looking forward to the upcoming elections to the Shura Council due to start on the 29 January.

The EU places great importance on the transfer to civilian rule as early as possible. To meet the expectations of the Egyptian people, it is vital that the authorities stick to their commitment to hold Presidential elections by the end of June this year."

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