



EUROPEAN UNION



Brussels, 9 March 2013

**Declaration by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton,
on behalf of the European Union on the elections in Kenya**

The European Union congratulates the people of Kenya for the largely peaceful elections. Kenyans have shown a strong commitment to electoral democracy by turning out in high numbers and peacefully exercising their democratic rights. The EU congratulates all those who have been elected successfully and commends those who have conceded defeat and appealed for peace.

The EU is confident that any disputes will be dealt with by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission and the established judicial mechanisms swiftly and fairly. The EU appeals to all parties to maintain the peaceful and democratic spirit until these processes are completed.

With these elections a major step is being taken to the realisation of the promise of the new Constitution and in showing that there is no place for violence in the new Kenya. It is particularly important that the rule of law should prevail. The EU stands ready to continue to support the government and people of Kenya in putting this promise into practice as well as to further implement the new constitution.

P R E S S
