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S T A T E M E N T

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
on the adoption of the constitution and the appointment of the
new government in Tunisia

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission issued the following statement today:

"I congratulate Tunisia on the adoption of its new constitution, which marks an important milestone in the country's democratic transition.

I applaud the joint efforts of the authorities, politicians and civil society organisations, and in particular those of the "Quartet". Tunisia has managed to react positively to internal political challenges and to take the initiative to implement a national dialogue tailored to its particular circumstances, which has allowed it to stay on course with the transition.

The constitution will ensure that citizens' fundamental rights are promoted and protected and confer democratic legitimacy on its institutions.

I also welcome the appointment of Mr Mehdi Jômaa to the post of Prime Minister, which is a further step in the consensus-based process established by the national dialogue. The European Union remains firmly alongside Tunisia as it faces the challenges of the months ahead. In that regard, I call on the new government to channel all available State resources into organising inclusive, transparent and credible elections as soon as possible.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu [@EUHighRepSpox](https://twitter.com/EUHighRepSpox)
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu [@AshtonSpox](https://twitter.com/AshtonSpox) Maja

Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu

Nabila Massrali +32 460 75 41 75 – Nabila.Massrali@ec.europa.eu

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The Tunisian people can count on the European Union's support and its commitment to deepening our privileged partnership."
