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STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton in response to the ruling by the Maldivian Supreme Court against Election Commissioners

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

"The High Representative is gravely concerned by the recent ruling of the Maldives Supreme Court that disqualified the President and Vice President of the Election Commission, sentenced the President to six months in prison, and convicted all four members of the Election Commission for contempt of Court. This is a serious setback in the democratic transition of the country.

The High Representative commends the fundamental role played by the Maldives Elections Commission in ensuring transparent, inclusive and credible elections. An independent and professional Election Commission, functioning in accordance with international standards, is a key institution in a democracy.

The High Representative urges the Maldives to complete its parliamentary elections in line with Constitutional deadlines and international standards, while respecting the independence of the Maldives Election Commission.

An EU Election Observation Mission has been deployed to the Maldives to observe the ongoing election process in all its aspects."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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