Statement by the Spokesperson on the election of the Speaker of the Iraqi Council of Representatives

Today's election of Mohamed al-Halbusi as a new Speaker of the Iraqi Council of Representatives is the first, crucial step towards the formation of a new government in Iraq following the elections. We expect political leaders to carry this process forward swiftly and to seek national participation and broad national reconciliation.

The new executive will have to urgently address the multiple challenges that Iraq faces, and respond to the legitimate needs and aspirations of the Iraqi population.

The European Union will remain a strong partner and supporter of Iraq, including through its €400 million pledge at the Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq in February and its EU Assistance Mission for civilian security sector reform. We will work with the new government in support of the stability, security, inclusive democracy and prosperity that all Iraqis deserve.

It is crucially important that Iraq's international partners and the countries of the region also continue to play a constructive role, to sustain and increase their support to Iraq, and to fully respect Iraq's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity in the interest of the stability of the country and the region.

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