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S T A T E M E N T

**by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
following the elections in Libya**

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 congratulates the Libyan people following yesterday's elections for the Constitutional Drafting Assembly. The Libyan people have demonstrated once again their commitment to a new Libya based on respect for democratic principles and fundamental freedoms. The High Representative also commends the High National Electoral Commission for all the efforts to conduct the elections in such challenging circumstances.

The High Representative regrets and condemns the violent incidents in certain parts of the country, which deprived voters of a basic democratic right. The achievements accomplished by the Libyan people so far in consolidating democracy cannot be undermined by a few individuals seeking to disrupt the transition process.

Yesterday's vote will lead to the establishment of the Constitutional Drafting Assembly. The sixty members of this body will bear great responsibility for drafting Libya's first democratic constitution. The EU looks to this Assembly to act in a spirit of inclusiveness, to protect and promote the rights of all Libyans and to actively reach out also to those that did not participate in the elections.

Libya is a crucial neighbour for Europe with whom we wish to establish long-term and mutually beneficial relations. The EU is determined to support the Libyan people in their quest for a prosperous future in a society based on the rule of law and democratic principles."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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