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Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

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EU Presidency Statement on the Preliminary Findings and
Conclusions of the IEOM for the pre-term Parliamentary
Elections in the Kyrgyz Republic on 16 December

I would like to draw the attention of participating States to a EU Presidency Statement, issued on the 17th December 2007, on the Preliminary Findings and Conclusions of the IEOM for the pre-term Parliamentary Elections in the Kyrgyz Republic on 16th December:

«The Presidency of the European Union has been closely following events over the course of the pre-term Parliamentary Elections held in the Kyrgyz Republic on 16 December. The Presidency of the EU notes with satisfaction that pluralistic elections were held in a generally calm environment.

However, the Presidency regrets that the preliminary findings and conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission recorded that the elections failed to meet a number of international standards - in particular the lack of transparency and accountability during counting and tabulation.

In addition, the Presidency also expresses its concerns at shortcomings in the new election law, including the ambiguity of certain of its provisions.

The EU stands ready to assist the Kyrgyz Republic in its efforts to bring the election process into line with OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections. The Presidency urges the Kyrgyz Republic to continue working closely with the ODHIR. » *end of quote*