

## **Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the Kyrgyzstan elections**

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Final Version (216 words)

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made the following statement:

"I welcome the peaceful conduct of the Parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan, which constitute an important milestone towards the democratic stabilisation of the country.

The Kyrgyz authorities have displayed a strong will to bring the country closer to meeting its international commitments on democratic elections. The people of Kyrgyzstan were offered a vibrant campaign marked by political pluralism, diverse media coverage as well as a professional and independent Central Commission for Elections.

However, some important shortcomings in the electoral legislation need to be addressed. In this regard, I note the statement of preliminary findings and conclusions made by the OSCE/ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament.

Building on the successful conduct of the elections, I call on all parties concerned to make real efforts towards reconciliation. It is important for all parties to enter in this new, crucial phase for Kyrgyzstan in a responsible manner and with a constructive attitude based on mutual respect.

The EU stands ready to assist Kyrgyzstan in meeting the important challenges ahead, in particular ensuring respect for the rule of law, human rights and democratic principles, maintaining public order, fostering reconciliation between communities and promoting economic recovery".