Letter to the Presidential candidates

The European Union releases the full text of the letter to the Presidential candidates on behalf of 29 European states, Australia and Canada.

Kabul, 5 August 2014

On 2 August 2014, the Heads of Missions of the European Union, its Member States, Norway, Australia and Canada jointly addressed the Presidential candidates, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai to raise their concerns of the lack of momentum in the electoral and political processes.

Both Presidential candidates have responded positively to the letter, welcoming it as a constructive contribution to the process and recognising its role in overcoming the deadlock and taking the audit forward.

The letter to Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai is attached to this Press Information.

"We firmly believe that the rules and regulations, which both camps have now accepted and committed to, are sufficient to deliver a legitimate result of the election. The audit process must continue in good faith, without interruptions, until the job is done. This is what the Afghan people expect. This is what the Afghan nation needs", said the European Union Special Representative in Afghanistan and Head of the European Union Delegation to Afghanistan, Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin.

The European Union Special Representative urges the presidential candidates to engage in a positive dialogue to take the political process forward.

"The time has now come to focus on the political future of Afghanistan. Talks between the candidates will be essential to reach a common understanding of the framework of the envisaged government of national unity. I therefore welcome the meeting today between the candidates and encourage them strongly to continue their direct talks", the European Union Special Representative added.

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