Election message from the European Union Special Representative in Afghanistan
Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin

Kabul, 13 June 2014

Tomorrow millions of Afghan women and men will go to the polls to choose their next president; paving the way for Afghanistan’s first democratic transition of power.

The European Union encourages all Afghans to use their constitutional right to cast their ballot and help advance democracy. Every vote will be a vote for peace. Votes, not violence, should determine the future of Afghanistan.

In the first round of the elections, the Afghan people sent a clear message to the world of their aspirations for a peaceful and legitimate transfer of power. The European Union calls on the candidates and their supporters to respect the voting, counting and tallying procedures; to oppose any attempt to commit fraud, and to use the independent electoral institutions and the procedures set out in law to resolve possible disputes.

The Afghan electoral institutions, the IEC and the IECC, will play a key role in ensuring a legitimate outcome. The trust of Afghan voters and the candidates in both institutions will be greatly increased by the transparent and consistent implementation of election procedures at all stages of the process.

The European Union encourages the IEC and IECC to improve coordination between them and to interact closely with each other, candidate representatives, and election observers. We welcome the efforts made to date by both institutions to build on lessons learnt from the first round also taking into account the candidates’ views for improvements.

The European Union and its Member States have provided extensive diplomatic and funding support for the elections. In addition, the European Union Election Assessment Team, led by Chief Observer Thijs Berman, has been in Afghanistan since March and continues to observe and assess the electoral process, with the aim of contributing to its inclusiveness and transparency, so that the Afghan people can have confidence that the outcome reflects their choice. The Election Assessment Team will issue a preliminary statement on the second round of the Presidential election shortly after voting is completed.

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