

Syria: Statement by the High Representative Josep Borrell on the presidential elections

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Statements by the HR/VP

The elections that took place in Syria on 26 May met none of the criteria of a genuinely democratic vote, do not contribute to the settlement of the conflict. Elections in Syria should take place only within the framework of a genuine political process, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254. They can only be credible if all Syrians, including internally displaced people, refugees and members of the diaspora, are able to participate in a safe, and neutral environment without threat of intimidation and in a free and fair political competition.

The EU considers that the elections yesterday undermine efforts to find a sustainable solution to the Syrian conflict. It cannot lead to any measure of international normalisation with the Syrian regime. The political process must be fully inclusive to ensure that all segments of Syria's society are involved in shaping the country's future unity and reconciliation.

The European Union is prepared to support free and fair elections in Syria in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2254 and under supervision of the UN, to the highest international standards of transparency and accountability, with all Syrians, including members of the diaspora, eligible to participate.

The European Union continues to demand an end to repression, the release of detainees, and meaningful engagement by the Syrian regime and its allies towards the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2254. The European Union reiterates its support to the efforts of UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen to advance all aspects of this Resolution.