

PRESS RELEASE

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<u>Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union</u>

on the elections on 25 June in Haiti

The European Union welcomes the good conduct of the ballot on 25 June, which constitutes an important step along the road to democracy and the consolidation of the rule of law in Haiti. It nevertheless deplores that the elections became the scene of acts of violence, and in particular the assassination of a former officer of the armed forces and of an electoral candidate.

It notes that the proper conduct of the electoral campaign and of the ballot has clearly demonstrated the population's wish to express itself freely and responsibly.

The European Union, which supported the organization of these elections, in particular by preparing the elections and by dispatching observers, notes that international solidarity has helped to ensure that the ballot has gone smoothly.

It hopes that the administrative and logistical shortcomings noted on 25 June can be corrected in the second-round ballot on 23 July, and in the presidential elections at the end of the year, both of which constitute decisive steps for Haiti.

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