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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the parliamentary elections in Yemen**

The European Union congratulates the people and Government of Yemen with the free and fair parliamentary elections that took place on 27 April. The Union notes the statement made by the Joint International Observers group in which the Union is proud to have participated. The high turnout of the voters and the commitment shown by all those involved in the elections show the desire of the people of Yemen to participate actively and directly in the process of building a free and democratic society.

It is the hope of the European Union that the new parliament will play a leading role in this process of consolidating democracy in Yemen.

The Central and Eastern European Countries associated with the Union, and the associated country Cyprus, align themselves with this declaration.