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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the presidential election in Chad**

Noting the Constitutional Council's decision to declare the outgoing President, Idriss Deby, victor in the first round of the presidential election, the European Union regrets the many shortcomings in the organisation of the poll and the resultant irregularities.

The European Union is concerned about the restriction of liberties observed during the electoral period and deplores the use of force against public demonstrations and the brief but brutal questioning of all the opposition candidates. The European Union points out that its partnership with Chad is based on respect for democratic values and fundamental freedoms.

Realising that democracy in Chad is emerging in a difficult context, the European Union welcomes the calm shown by and mobilisation of the population on the occasion of the poll and hopes that the democratic process will in future take hold through the strengthening of the partnership's values, as the pursuit of political stability by means of the free exercise of civil rights is a precondition for development.

The European Union will therefore pay attention to the measures that the Chadian government adopts to ensure progress in the organisation of polls, in particular on the occasion of the next legislative elections.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

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