



EUROPEAN UNION



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**Declaration by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton,
on behalf of the European Union on the Presidential elections
in the Maldives on 16 November 2013**

The EU congratulates Mr Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom on his victory in the Presidential election in the Maldives.

Despite repeated delays, the democratic process could finally be brought to a conclusion thanks in large part to the efficiency and professionalism of the Elections Commission.

The EU welcomes the return to constitutional rule and congratulates the Maldivian people on their commitment to democracy.

The EU expects all political parties to put personal and ideological rivalries aside and work together to confront the serious economic and environmental challenges which the country faces.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland† and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

† Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

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