<u>Statement by the Spokesperson on the new electoral law in Lebano</u>

The agreement reached on a new electoral law governing the next parliamentary elections is an important step towards fully functioning democratic institutions in Lebanon.

Following on the election of the President and the appointment of a new government at the end of 2016, the agreement to hold democratic elections under the new law will enable the government to advance with the necessary economic and structural measures. This will contribute to stabilise the country and stimulate faster economic growth.

As a long-standing partner and friend of Lebanon, the European Union reaffirms its commitment to provide support for the preparation and the holding of the elections.

We will also continue to fulfil the commitments made in the EU-Lebanon Compact. We will continue to work closely together towards a stable, safe and democratic Republic of Lebanon living in peace, security and prosperity with the whole region.