



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on Egypt

*3130th FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 1 December 2011*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council welcomes the well-organized and peaceful start of the parliamentary elections in Egypt on 28 November and the significant voter turn out which proves the engagement of the Egyptian people in the political transition. It hopes this process will continue in a safe and transparent environment. The Council takes note of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces' (SCAF) recent announcement to hold Presidential elections before the end of June 2012.
2. The Council underlines that a swift move to civilian rule should take place as soon as possible. In this context, the SCAF has the responsibility of protecting the democratic rights of the population and must ensure that power is transferred as soon as possible to a representative, inclusive civilian government, that has all the necessary authority to lead Egypt through its transition process. It encourages the interim authorities to seek a peaceful and constructive way forward based on an inclusive and open dialogue with all political forces and civil society representatives while safeguarding the principles of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms.
3. The EU is deeply concerned about the violence and unrest that took place in Egypt prior to the first round of elections. The Council deplors the loss of life and high number of injured people in recent clashes and expresses its condolences to the families of the victims. It condemns the excessive and unacceptable violence committed by the security forces against the demonstrators. The Council urges restraint on all sides and calls for an independent investigation bringing those responsible for violence to justice. It also urges the authorities to uphold the rule of law and respect for human rights.

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4. The Council expresses its deep concern regarding the deterioration of the economic situation in Egypt, which makes it even more urgent to have representative authorities able to engage in the necessary social and economic reforms and to allow the effective use of available international assistance. The EU conveys its continued support to Egypt in this regard.
 5. The Council reiterates its support for a democratic, pluralist and stable Egypt as a key EU partner in the region sharing the goal of building stability, peace and prosperity in the Mediterranean and Middle East region.
 6. The EU will continue to stand by Egypt and its people in their quest for freedom and a democratic transition based on the goals of deep and sustainable democracy and inclusive economic development, in line with the Council conclusions on the European Neighborhood Policy of 20 June 2011."
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