



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**STATEMENT**

Brussels, 29 September 2014

**Message from President Barroso and President Van Rompuy to Dr Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and to Dr Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer of the new Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

"On behalf of the European Union, we would like to extend to you our congratulations following the elections of 14 June 2014.

We trust that all Afghans will unite in addressing the important economic and security challenges. The European Union will continue its long-term engagement to assist the people of Afghanistan on the path towards peace and prosperity.

We are committed to working closely with you and the new Afghan government to implement urgently needed political and economic reforms, strengthen the rule of law and foster full respect for human rights, in particular the rights of women and girls.

The European Union looks forward to further consolidating cooperation, partnership and friendship with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan."

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