



EUROPEAN UNION  
DELEGATION TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

02.12.2014

## **Local European Union Statement on the political situation and upcoming elections in Lesotho**

The European Union Delegation to Lesotho issues the following statement following the participation of EU Heads of Mission and other representatives to the annual Lesotho - European Union Political Dialogue as well as a range of other meetings in Maseru over 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

The Government of Lesotho and the European Union held on 1<sup>st</sup> December a formal session of their ongoing process of Political Dialogue (held in the framework of the Cotonou Agreement). The European Union was represented by the EU Ambassador to Lesotho and the Ambassadors and other representatives of 14 of the EU Member States accredited to the country. This Political Dialogue, covering a broad range of subjects of mutual interest, focused in particular on the current political situation in Lesotho, preparations for the upcoming general elections and the development agenda. Apart from this Dialogue between the EU and Government, with the participation of the Independent Electoral Commission, the EU representatives also had separate meetings in Maseru with representatives of a number of opposition parties, civil society and international partners.

Welcoming the important progress to date in the implementation of the key agreements negotiated by SADC Facilitator, H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, with the full engagement of stakeholders from across Lesotho's political spectrum, the EU now calls upon these same stakeholders to ensure the upcoming election process will be peaceful, credible and transparent, so that the newly elected Parliament and Government will be empowered to concentrate all their efforts on taking forward sustainable reforms in the political, security, public sector and economic domains and addressing the many pressing development challenges facing Lesotho. As a long standing international partner and friend of the country, the EU renews its offer to provide further enabling support for Lesotho to take forward the reform and development agenda in the best interests of all Basotho.

**End**