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The Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the European Union, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Asim, today met with representatives of the three key EU institutions in Brussels.

MEP Mr Robert Evans, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee to the countries of South Asia; Ms Helen Campbell, Head of Unit for the Maldives in the European Commission's Directorate General for External Relations; and Mr Tim Eestermans, from the Council of the European Union, all welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Ambassador the day after a date for the elections had been confirmed.

Ambassador Asim briefed the EU representatives, in three separate meetings, on recent developments which had allowed an election date to be fixed within the timetable set by the Constitution. These included the creation of an independent Elections Commission and the adoption and ratification of necessary bills for a fully-functioning electoral system.

He also briefed on the progress with regard to fulfilling the two remaining constitutional requirements before the elections, namely the setting up of the Supreme Court and the enactment of the Anti Corruption Act.

Finally, the Ambassador provided an overview of the role the media has played in the elections preparations as well the logistical efforts that are currently being put in place for the October date.

The Ambassador also welcomed the support given by the EU during the political Reform Process in the Maldives and looked forward to further engagement not only on the Election Day itself but in future years.

Mr Evans welcomed the information provided and reaffirmed the Parliament's support not only for the forthcoming elections period but indeed for the democratization process as a whole which has seen change in a wide variety of areas within recent years. He also noted the positive cooperation between the Parliament and the Maldives government and hoped for this to continue.

Ms Campbell stated that the Commission is in the process of working out the arrangements of the EU election expert and observation mission. She also highlighted that the EU technical team, already deployed in Male', is assisting the Elections Commission in its procedures.

Mr Eestermans, representing the Council of the European Union, stated that democratization developments in recent times were indeed impressive and offered further Council support in the period leading up to the elections.

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