



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1002 Vienna, 29 May 2014

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#### **EU Statement on the Presidential Election in Ukraine**

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The EU congratulates the Ukrainian people on the historic and successful Presidential election and commends them for their determination to vote and decide their own future. All Ukrainians should take this election as an opportunity for a fresh start for Ukraine and a step towards de-escalation. The EU calls on all parties to accept the legitimacy of the process and the outcome of the election, and we look forward to working closely with the new President, as stated by the EU Heads of State or Government on 27 May. We welcome statements made by the Russian Federation indicating that it will respect the will of the Ukrainian people and engage in a dialogue with the new Ukrainian President.

We take note of the preliminary assessment of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) that the Presidential election in Ukraine was characterised by high turnout and a clear resolve by the authorities to hold what was a genuine election largely in line with international commitments and that respected fundamental freedoms, despite the hostile security environment in two Eastern regions of the country.

We commend the Ukrainian authorities for their efforts in organising the election impartially, and note that the voting and counting processes were transparent and largely in line with procedures, as reported by the IEOM. We welcome that Ukraine in the run up to this election implemented a number of ODIHR's previous recommendations, including with regard to the election law and public broadcasting. We find it encouraging that no cases of misuse of administrative resources were observed. We encourage the Ukrainian authorities to consider

early implementation of any ODIHR recommendations flowing from this Election Observation Mission.

We commend the IEOM for its professionalism and dedication in observing this election. ODIHR has once again shown that it can deliver “the gold standard” in the field of election observation, even in a very complex and challenging environment. We thank the institutions that were part of the IEOM for their joint efforts.

We note that illegal armed groups caused serious problems for the election in parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. We deeply regret these attempts to obstruct the process and deny citizens their fundamental right to take part in a democratic election. We also regret that voting could not take place on the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula and that citizens residing there faced serious difficulties participating in the election.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, ICELAND+, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA, MONACO and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.