



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No 1095

Vienna, 7 April 2016

---

#### EU Statement on the Early Parliamentary Elections in Kazakhstan

---

1. We thank the Delegation of Kazakhstan for raising the issue of the early parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan.
2. The European Union has closely followed the early parliamentary elections of 20 March 2016 in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The EU welcomes that an International Election Observation Mission, comprising of 359 observers from 41 countries, including 282 long-term and short-term observers deployed by the OSCE/ODIHR, observed the election.
3. The EU acknowledges that according to the preliminary findings and conclusions, the parliamentary elections were efficiently organised, with some progress being noted. The Election Observation Mission found positive developments regarding the inclusivity of candidate registration, with six parties contending the elections, and the ability of the candidates to campaign freely.
4. The EU notes, however, that according to the same report Kazakhstan still has a considerable way to go in meeting its OSCE commitments for democratic elections. A comprehensive reform of the current legal framework is required, as it restricts fundamental civil and political rights. The Election Observation Mission highlighted that serious procedural errors and irregularities were noted during voting, counting and tabulation.
5. We welcome the announcement of the Central Election Commission that it is preparing a comprehensive proposal of amendments to the Election Law to be considered in 2017 with a view to addressing previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations. The European Union also expects Kazakhstan to respond transparently and effectively to the recommendations in the OSCE/ODIHR final

report on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March elections when that is issued. The European Union remains ready to assist the Kazakh authorities in addressing these recommendations, in the spirit of the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed in Astana in December 2015.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and NORWAY align themselves with this statement.

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