



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council N° 1182  
Vienna, 19 April 2018**

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**EU Statement in Response to the current issue raised by  
Russia on the election observation methodology**

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In reply to the statement made by the Russian Federation, we would like to acknowledge the crucial role ODIHR has in building public confidence in the governance processes and thus in strengthening democratic societies and accountable institutions across the OSCE area, including through its electoral assistance and deployment of Election Observation Missions.

We reiterate the full support for ODIHR's long-standing and well-established election observation methodology, which is globally recognized and applied in the same unbiased manner in all participating States, always based on thorough needs assessments. Responding to requests by participating States, ODIHR strives to maintain a 360 degree perspective, observing elections throughout the OSCE region. Its methodology is based on the principles of independence, impartiality and professionalism. The methodology is tried and tested in over 350 elections, over two decades, in almost all OSCE participating States. It has been endorsed by all participating States and has been used by other organizations, including the EU, as a basis for developing their own guidelines. We reaffirm our support to the ODIHR methodology and see no reason to change it.

It is also important to remember that ODIHR works closely with parliamentary partners, from the OSCE PA, PACE and the European Parliament. They also contribute to the preliminary findings and conclusions.

Elections are the foundation of democracy, and they need to be followed by efforts to further consolidate and strengthen democratic institutions. We reiterate our commitment to following up on the recommendations emerging from the OSCE election observation activities, be it in the frame of legal assessments, follow-up

meetings with relevant authorities and other stakeholders, the annual Election Seminar or the election standards handbooks.

In recent years, ODIHR has repeatedly had to request supplementary budgets and to decline invitations to observe elections due to insufficient funds. We would like to reiterate that it is us, the participating States, who need to ensure adequate funding and support budgetary planning to allow ODIHR to undertake all election observation demands, be it expected or unexpected, and to second observers.

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

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