



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1227 Vienna, 9 May 2019

EU Statement on the Second Round of the Presidential Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia

The European Union congratulates the Republic of North Macedonia on the successful completion of the presidential elections.

We welcome the assessment by the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) that the elections were well administered, fundamental freedoms were respected and voters were free to make an informed choice.

We encourage the authorities to address the shortcomings identified by the IEOM, notably relating to campaign rules and transparency of campaign finance, with a view to improving the framework for future elections.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm the European Union's unequivocal commitment to the European perspective of the Western Balkans. We look forward to working closely with the newly elected President of the Republic of North Macedonia to further strengthen our friendship and to advance our common objective of building a united and prosperous Europe.

The European Union considers that the Prespa agreement is an extraordinary political achievement. The European Union also welcomed the conclusion of the Treaty on Friendship, Good-neighbourliness and Cooperation with Bulgaria and stressed the importance of its continued implementation. The EU would like to underline again that a historic moment has been reached, not only for

reconciliation in the region, but also for decisively moving the country forward on its European Union path, which the EU will continue to fully support.

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

* Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.