



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1237 Vienna, 25 July 2019

EU Statement on the Early Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine

Early Parliamentary Elections took place in Ukraine on 21 July 2019. The European Union welcomes the Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions presented by the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), the result of a thorough preparation of the election observation, using the long-standing, impartial and professional expertise, in line with the internationally-recognised ODIHR election observation methodology. We look forward to the final report.

Following the Presidential Elections in March and April, the Ukrainian people have once again given a strong mandate for reform for the next five years. It is now the responsibility of the new authorities to meet the expectations of Ukraine's citizens.

The European Union welcomes that - according to the preliminary assessment of the IEOM - fundamental freedoms were overall respected, the campaign was competitive and the electoral administration was competent and effective. With regard to the reported shortcomings, such as reported vote-buying and media coverage, it is important that the Ukrainian authorities address these on the basis of OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, ahead of the established electoral cycle, including the 2020 local elections. We trust that the new Ukrainian authorities will also now effectively address previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, such as ensuring and implementing a legal framework and special measures conducive to the representation of persons belonging to national minorities.

We reiterate our regret that the voting could not be organized in certain parts of Ukraine as a consequence of the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation and the ongoing armed conflict and other hostilities in the east of the country. The EU recalls its unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

The EU stands by a democratic, stable and prosperous Ukraine. We look forward to continuing to advance our political association and economic integration and deliver on the reform process at the core of our Association Agreement, and closely cooperating to that end with the new Ukrainian authorities. These reforms include furthering the rule of law, fight against corruption, energy and macro-economic stability, to the benefit of Ukraine's citizens.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA* and ALBANIA*, 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.

* Republic of North Macedonia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.