



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1143
Vienna, 27 April 2017**

EU statement on the referendum in Turkey

We take note of the results of the referendum in Turkey on the amendments to the Constitution. We also take note of the findings of the Venice Commission. The Constitutional amendments and their practical implementation will be assessed in light of Turkey's obligations as a European Union candidate country and as a member of the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

We welcome the invitation extended by the Turkish authorities to observe the referendum. We take note of the preliminary conclusions of the ODIHR Observation Mission and encourage the Turkish authorities to engage with the ODIHR mission's findings and work with them to address concerns.

We strongly support ODIHR's longstanding and well-established election observation methodology which is globally recognised and applied in the same manner in all participating States. We do not accept attempts to discredit the work or staff of the Observation Mission, who were performing their tasks following an invitation by the Turkish Government to observe the referendum and in compliance to the OSCE commitments all participating States subscribed to. The European Union recalls the importance attached to the implementation of our OSCE Human Dimension commitments and to the work carried out by the OSCE autonomous institutions.

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 and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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