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EU Statement on the Organization of a Referendum in Montenegro

We would like to draw attention to the EU Statement made on 19 December on the Venice Commission Opinion on the organisation of a referendum in Montenegro:

“The EU welcomes the Venice Commission Opinion on the organisation of a referendum in Montenegro and supports its recommendations. The EU has a specific role in supporting the parties in the management of this process, defined in the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro, and therefore welcomes the appointment by the EU High Representative/Secretary General of Ambassador Miroslav Lajčák as his Personal Representative to facilitate negotiations.

It strongly recommends all political forces in Montenegro to cooperate constructively with each other and with the Personal Representative to achieve a consensus on matters of principle regarding the conduct and implementation of the proposed referendum and to refrain from unilateral actions that might reduce the chances of success of the dialogue and undermine EU facilitation efforts. Ensuring that the organisation and conduct of the referendum is accepted by all major political groups in Montenegro, as well as the International Community, is crucial to the future political stability of Montenegro, and the pace of its movement towards the European Union.”