

Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**Permanent Council No. 593
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EU statement on the election of the new President of Kosovo

1. The European Union welcomes the election of Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu as President of Kosovo. The swift election of a new president after the end of the mourning period for late President Ibrahim Rugova signals continuity and marks an important step towards the further consolidation of Kosovo's political life.
2. In view of the upcoming round of direct talks of Pristina and Belgrade in Vienna, the EU calls on the parties to engage constructively in the process to determine the future status of Kosovo and to make all possible efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement. At the same time, the European Union underlines the need for further progress in the implementation of the Kosovo Standards. The European Union is and remains committed to building a democratic and multiethnic Kosovo, where all people can live in peace and security regardless of their ethnicity.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

*Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

