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## **Présidence française du Conseil de l'Union européenne**

**Conseil Permanent No. 745  
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### **European Union statement on parliamentary elections in Turkmenistan**

The EU has taken note of the *Mejlis* parliamentary elections in Turkmenistan that took place on 14 December 2008.

The EU welcomes the fact that international observers were invited to monitor elections and that an OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Team was deployed to Turkmenistan in the context of the dialogue established in early 2007 between the authorities of Turkmenistan and the OSCE/ODIHR on possible improvements to the electoral process in line with OSCE commitments.

The EU has taken note of the ODIHR's Needs Assessment Mission Report of 20 October 2008, which concludes, inter alia, that the current political context does not allow for a meaningful competition. Therefore, the EU encourages cooperation between the relevant Turkmen authorities, the OSCE Center in Ashgabat, and the ODIHR on election related issues in the future in order for Turkmenistan to comply with OSCE commitments in this field, particularly those enshrined in the 1990 Copenhagen Document and which relate to political pluralism, election campaign and voting and counting procedures.

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Furthermore, the EU expresses its concern about the arrest of individuals who sought to become candidates in the elections.

La Croatie\* et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine\*, pays candidats ; l'Albanie, la Bosnie - Herzégovine, le Monténégro et la Serbie, pays du processus de stabilisation et d'association et candidats potentiels ; l'Islande et la Norvège, pays de l'Association Européenne de libre-échange et membres de l'Espace économique européen se rallient à cette déclaration.

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