



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1005 Vienna, 19 June 2014

EU statement on the Presidential Elections in Afghanistan

The EU would like to welcome the holding of the second round of presidential elections on 14 June 2014. These elections marked a crucial development on Afghanistan's path towards consolidating democracy and provided another opportunity for the Afghan people to decide on their own future.

Afghan voters have shown a remarkable determination by taking part in large numbers, including significant number of women, despite high security challenges. In this context, we strongly condemn all violent incidents perpetrated against the election process.

We commend the Independent Election Commission for the improvements made throughout the electoral process and encourage the IEC, when releasing the final results, to be transparent in its tallying procedures. We urge the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission to investigate seriously all the complaints filed. We also call on both candidates to refrain from interfering in the electoral process.

We highly appreciate the work done by both the EU Election Assessment Team and the OSCE Election Support Mission. We call on the Afghan authorities to make good use of their combined recommendations, to further improve the electoral process in Afghanistan.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and SERBIA*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.