



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No 1152 Vienna, 6 July 2017

---

#### **AOB - EU Statement on the Parliamentary Elections in Albania**

---

We thank the Delegation of Albania for informing the Permanent Council about the parliamentary elections in Albania.

The European Union would like to recall the statement of High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini and Commissioner Johannes Hahn following the parliamentary elections in Albania:

“Albania’s parliamentary elections on 25 June took place in a calm and orderly manner. Citizens benefited from a broad political offer at an important stage of Albania’s EU integration process.

According to the preliminary conclusions of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission, the electoral contestants were able to campaign freely and fundamental freedoms of assembly and expression were respected. The electoral framework generally provided an adequate basis for the conduct of democratic elections.

We take note of the reserves expressed by observers regarding the politicisation of electoral bodies and the inconsistent application of the law. We expect appropriate follow up to the preliminary findings of the Election Observation Mission will be ensured, notably regarding allegations of vote-buying and pressure on voters as well as interference by unauthorised party activists, which can undermine public confidence in elections.

Once the electoral process has been completed, we will engage with the new government to support the reform process and proceed on the EU integration process. The continuation of the justice reform and the fight against drug trafficking and cultivation will be of particular importance in this respect.

We also look forward to continuing our partnership with Albania to promote regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations.”

The EU furthermore recalls its earlier Council conclusions, including those of December 2015, in which the EU reiterated that a sustained, comprehensive and inclusive implementation of all five key priorities has to be ensured before the opening of accession negotiations.

The EU welcomes Albania's continued constructive engagement in regional cooperation and underlines the importance of ensuring good neighbourly relations, which remain essential.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and SERBIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE and the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

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