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**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 925
Vienna, 15 October 2012**

EU statement on the parliamentary elections in Georgia

The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the joint statement issued on 2 October by the EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, and by Commissioner Štefan Füle, in which they note the generally positive conduct of parliamentary elections and Georgia's commitment to its democratic path.

We also take full note of OSCE/ODIHR's statement of preliminary findings, which considered that the conduct of the elections showed a healthy respect for fundamental freedoms and, at the same time, also referred to the polarized and tense campaign environment.

The European Union congratulates the Georgian people on this significant step towards the consolidation of democracy in their country and stands ready to help Georgia through this political transition. We call on Georgian state institutions and political parties to work together constructively during the period of transition, with a view to assuring stability, the rule of law, human rights and good governance, in full respect of the democratically expressed will of the people and the respective responsibilities of the Parliament and the President under the Georgian Constitution.

The European Union acknowledges the European aspirations and European choice of Georgia and looks forward to continued close co-operation with it. The EU reiterates once again the importance it attaches to intensified relations with Georgia and invites the incoming Georgian

government to make full use of opportunities offered by the Eastern Partnership and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, 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 country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, 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.