



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1071 Vienna, 15 October 2015

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#### **EU Statement on the presidential elections in Belarus**

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The European Union has followed closely the presidential elections of 11 October 2015 in the Republic of Belarus, including the pre-electoral phase and the campaigning period.

It is an important development that the election day proceeded in a peaceful environment.

We take note of the preliminary findings and conclusions of the OSCE/ODIHR International Election Observation Mission on the Presidential elections in Belarus. According to the Mission, Belarus still has considerable way to go towards fulfilling its OSCE commitments for democratic elections. Work needs to be done to improve the electoral framework, particularly on balanced electoral administration and Election Day procedures. We will study carefully the final OSCE/ODIHR report and its recommendations.

Ahead of the parliamentary elections of 2016, these recommendations should be implemented by the national authorities. We encourage Belarus to cooperate with ODIHR to this end.

The European Union continues to stand ready to assist Belarus in its efforts to bring its election process in line with OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections.

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

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania 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.