



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No 1073 Vienna, 29 October 2015

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#### EU Statement on the local elections in Ukraine

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The local elections held in Ukraine on Sunday are another important step in the consolidation of the country's democratic governance, following the presidential and parliamentary elections of last year.

As stated in the preliminary report of the International Election Observation Mission, the elections were competitive, well organized overall and the campaign generally showed respect for the democratic process. Nevertheless, additional efforts are needed to further enhance the integrity of and public confidence in the electoral process and we encourage the Ukrainian authorities to act on the recommendations in the final report to be produced by OSCE/ODIHR.

The observers stressed that the elections took place in a challenging political, economic, humanitarian and security environment, characterized by the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation and the temporary control of parts of the territory of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions by separatists. This made it impossible for more than 5 million voters in these areas to vote.

The holding of elections was not possible for security reasons in some government-controlled territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Additionally, elections were not held in Mariupol, Krasnoarmiisk and Svatove. Elections in these cities should be held as a matter of priority to ensure citizens can also exercise their voting rights.

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 country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and 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.