



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No 1072 Vienna, 22 October 2015

EU statement on the work of ODIHR

In connection with the comments made by the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan on the work of ODIHR, the European Union wishes to provide the following response:

The European Union underlines its full support for the mandate and autonomy of ODIHR. Many participating States, including in the European Union, have benefitted from ODIHR's advice and support in implementing OSCE commitments.

We reiterate in particular our strong support for ODIHR's election observation methodology which is applied equally in all participating States. It is based on the principles of independence, impartiality and professionalism as spelled out in Ministerial Council Decision 19/06 on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE. The European Union fully supports the preparation as well as the conduct of ODIHR's election observation without restrictions and limitations imposed by participating States.

The European Union would further like to recall that the Director of ODIHR and his team had repeatedly and in detail, at several instances between March and August 2015, communicated the whole process and the according deadlines and criteria to interlocutors at all levels, both at a meeting with the Minister and the Central Election Commission in Baku and in frequent contacts with the Ambassador in Vienna.

Mr. Chairperson, the European Union welcomes all steps to strengthen cooperation between Azerbaijan and ODIHR. We welcome and support the ongoing dialogue between Azerbaijan and ODIHR and invite Azerbaijan to make best use of the opportunities it offers.