



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1226 Vienna, 2 May 2019

EU Statement on the Second Round of Presidential Election in Ukraine

The European Union welcomes the positive assessment of the 2019 Presidential Election in Ukraine as depicted in the statement of preliminary findings and conclusions by the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) following the second round of voting that took place on 21 April.

The European Union congratulates the people of Ukraine for their deep commitment to democracy and the rule of law, demonstrated in the election which complied with international standards, was assessed as competitive and held with respect for fundamental freedoms. The runoff was well-organized, despite operational challenges and a limited timeframe. Election day was assessed positively by the observers and there was a marked improvement in the conduct of the vote count and tabulation compared to the first round. The orderly transfer of power should offer the opportunity for strengthening democratic institutions and pave the way for renewed efforts to advance necessary reforms. We also encourage Ukraine to make progress with regards to previous ODIHR recommendations which remain unaddressed.

We reiterate our regret that the voting could not be organized in certain parts of Ukraine as a consequence of the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation and the ongoing armed conflict and other hostilities in the east of the country. The EU recalls its unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

The European Union firmly supports Ukraine's commitment to the European path enshrined in its constitution and its efforts to ensuring a stable, prosperous and democratic future for all its citizens. The further implementation by the EU and Ukraine of the Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, remains a crucial instrument in strengthening our cooperation and achieving this goal.

The Candidate Countries NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the EFTA country ICELAND, members of the European Economic Area, as well as NORWAY, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, UKRAINE and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

* North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.