



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 957 Vienna, 27 June 2013

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#### **EU statement on the parliamentary elections in Albania**

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The EU would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the 25 June joint statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle on the elections in Albania:

“We would like to congratulate the citizens of Albania for the parliamentary elections of 23 June which took place in an overall orderly manner. Adequate follow up to the preliminary findings and conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission should now be ensured. We condemn the reported cases of violence and expect that these incidents will be fully investigated and perpetrators brought to justice.

Now it is important that the remaining stages of the election process are conducted in line with EU and international standards. We call on all political parties to act in a constructive spirit for the good of the Albanian people.

Once the results are certified, we encourage a timely formation of the government to address the immediate challenges ahead to ensure that the country's reform agenda is vigorously pursued and the European integration process can gain renewed momentum.”

We welcome the joint press release and the statement of preliminary findings and conclusions issued by the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and others. We recall our support for close co-operation and partnership between the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, on the basis of their Cooperation Agreement and MC Decision 19/06.

We look forward to receiving the ODIHR final report on the elections in due course.

The Acceding Country CROATIA\*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, ICELAND+ and SERBIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of MOLDOVA, and GEORGIA, 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.