



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1101
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**EU statement on developments in the former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia**

The European Union follows closely the latest developments in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and would like to draw attention to the recent joint statement by High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini and Commissioner Hahn to this end.

The Constitutional Court's ruling cleared the way for Parliament to reconvene, which then decided to postpone the June 5th elections, for which the conditions were not there. This is a renewed opportunity for the country to address a number of serious issues at the heart of the prolonged political crisis. The way forward must be defined by all main political parties together, since it is only a mature dialogue, inclusiveness and commitment to democratic principles and to the necessary reforms and their implementation that will bring the country back on a Euro-Atlantic path. But we note that those in power have a particular responsibility for upholding the principles of accountability, counteracting impunity and avoiding selective justice.

All parties must preserve and respect the Przino Agreement which they agreed last year. This framework remains the best way to move the country out of the current crisis. Work should continue to prepare for credible elections organised in line with OSCE and other international commitments, as well as on the urgent reform priorities, through an inclusive process.

The parties must also urgently address the serious concerns about President Ivanov's pardoning of a number of officials. The April 12 pardons should be rescinded without delay to preserve the principle of accountability, counteract serious concerns about impunity and avoid selective justice. It is a fundamental democratic principle that all citizens should be equal before the law.

In the same vein, the parties must guarantee full support to the Special Prosecutor's Office and ensure its unhindered operation. The Special Prosecutor's Office and its work are central parts of the Przino Agreement.

All sides should avoid interventions that risk undermining years of efforts within the country and by the international community to strengthen the rule of law. We call on all parties to find a common agreement that serves all citizens. Approaches which would not respect this principle are something that the EU cannot support and stand behind. Shaping and ensuring the government's commitment to needed reforms will be a collective effort which should include the opposition and civil society.

The Candidate Countries MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, 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 UKRAINE, align themselves with this statement.

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