

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1021
Vienna, 30 October 2014**

**EU Statement on the Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine on
26 October**

The EU welcomes the holding of parliamentary elections in Ukraine on 26 October. We take good note of the preliminary assessment by the International Election Observation Mission involving OSCE/ODIHR, that the elections marked an important step in Ukraine's aspirations to consolidate democratic elections in line with its international commitments. The successful conduct of the elections despite the challenging political and security environment was a victory of the people of Ukraine and of democracy. The electoral mandate given by the Ukrainian people must now be implemented.

We look forward to the early formation of a new Government. On the basis of the outcome of the elections a broad national consensus should be sought in view of intensifying much needed political and economic reforms in Ukraine. A reinvigorated reform process, including the launching of a country-wide national dialogue, will be crucial in view of Ukraine's political association and economic integration with the EU and to consolidate Ukraine's unity and internal cohesion. In this context, we welcome the recent adoption by the Verkhovna Rada of the laws on prosecution and anti-corruption. The EU looks forward to working closely together with the new Verkhovna Rada and the future new government to assist in these endeavours.

We regret that the elections could not be conducted in Crimea due to Russia's illegal annexation or in more than half of the election districts in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts due to the actions of illegal pro-Russian armed groups.

We commend the International Election Observation Mission for its professionalism and dedication in observing these elections. ODIHR has once again shown that it can deliver “the gold standard” in the field of election observation, even in a very complex and challenging environment. We thank the OSCE PA and the other institutions that were part of the International Election Observation Mission for their joint efforts.

We look forward to receiving ODIHR’s final report in due course. We welcome the statement by the Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Pavlo Klimkin, in which he declared the readiness of the government to consider the recommendations of ODIHR on how to improve the electoral system.

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 UKRAINE, 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.