



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 1218  
Vienna, 28 February 2019**

**EU Statement on the Parliamentary Elections in the  
Republic of Moldova**

Parliamentary elections took place in the Republic of Moldova on 24 February. According to the preliminary conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission, the elections were competitive and fundamental rights were generally respected. Most aspects of the elections were administered in a professional and transparent manner. However, shortcomings were noted throughout the campaign and on the Election Day, notably allegations of pressure on public employees, indications of vote buying and the misuse of state resources. Control and ownership of the media by political actors limited the range of viewpoints presented to voters.

The European Union has closely monitored the overall electoral process and will continue to follow thoroughly post-election developments, with a view to assessing its impact on democracy and pluralism in the Republic of Moldova. The European Union supports the efforts to strengthen democracy in the Republic of Moldova and highlights that respecting the will of the voters is one of the fundamental democratic principles.

These were the first elections conducted under the newly introduced mixed electoral system. As already expressed in the Council Conclusions of 26 February 2018, the new electoral law did not address some of the key recommendations of the Joint Opinion of the Council of Europe, Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR.

We encourage the Republic of Moldova to address the OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission recommendations and to continue efforts to bring the electoral legislation and its implementation in line with international standards.

The European Union's partnership with the Republic of Moldova will remain focused on delivering tangible benefits to its citizens. In this spirit, the European Union is determined to working with all those in the Republic of Moldova committed to the reform process that is at the core of our Association Agreement, in particular, as stressed in the statement by the EEAS Spokesperson "fighting corruption and vested interests irrespective of the political affiliations, ensuring the independence of the judiciary and de-politicising the state institutions." We will continue to base our relationship with the Republic of Moldova on the principle of conditionality and respect for the rule of law and democratic standards.

The Candidate Countries NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, the EFTA country ICELAND, as well as UKRAINE, align themselves with this statement.

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