



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on developments in Montenegro

The European Union appreciates the information provided by the delegation of Montenegro.

We have been following closely the recent events in Montenegro and the decision of part of the opposition to proceed with a boycott of parliamentary activities. We recall that Parliament is the key institution for political dialogue and we invite all political parties to re-engage in the parliamentary process.

At the same time, we express our concern over the violence during the demonstrations in Podgorica on October 24, which resulted in injuries to police officers, journalists and other persons, as well as in damage to property, including the Embassy of Albania.

We welcome the fact that the Montenegrin authorities have started investigating these incidents and we urge all concerned to show restraint.

We attach great importance to the freedom of expression and assembly. Public protests are a legitimate and legal way of expressing political and other views, but they should also be peaceful and in full accordance with the rule of law.

We thank the OSCE Mission in Montenegro for reporting on the situation and we appreciate the fact that the Representative on Freedom of the Media is following the situation closely.

We highly value Montenegro's constructive and proactive approach in strengthening regional co-operation and in contributing to stability in the region. We are equally pleased by the significant progress of the country on its path to Euro-Atlantic integrations.

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 NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE 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.