



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 966 Vienna, 10 October 2013

EU statement on the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report on Presidential elections in Mongolia

The European Union (EU) would like to note that the intensive discussions during this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) have once more underlined the importance of ODIHR's election observation activities. Election observation is a flagship activity of the OSCE, and ODIHR's observation methodology remains a sound and tested basis for this activity.

Despite existing resource constraints, the ODIHR carried out an Election Observation Mission in Mongolia for the first time ever. We welcome that the fact that the mission concluded that the election on 26 June 2013 was characterized by a competitive campaign conducted in an environment that respected fundamental freedoms and that, on the Election Day, voters were able to cast their vote freely.

We note that the OSCE/ODIHR Final Report of the Election Observation Mission, circulated on 18 September 2013 also details a number of shortcomings and we believe that the recommendations contained in the report provide a good basis for an effective follow-up.

We would also like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for Mongolia's commitment to and its active interest and engagement in the work of our organisation. In this context we also acknowledge the request of the Mongolian government for an OSCE presence on its territory. We take it that Mongolia's request will be given due consideration.

The EU is looking forward to continuing its close co-operation with Mongolia within the OSCE.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and SERBIA*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

* 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.
