



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No 1161 Vienna, 19 October 2017

EU Statement on the Presidential elections in the Kyrgyz Republic

On 15 October, the people of the Kyrgyz Republic elected Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov as its new President. The active participation of Kyrgyz citizens in a peaceful, orderly and competitive election of the future President of the country confirms the commitment to democracy and political reform. Over recent years, the country's authorities have invested in improving the electoral process and in increasing the transparency of elections, with the support of international donors including the European Union.

According to the preliminary conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), the election contributed to the strengthening of democratic institutions by providing for an orderly transfer of power from one elected President to another. The elections were competitive and well administered. The IEOM identified nevertheless shortcomings such as vote buying, pressure on voters, restrictions on media freedom and the use of administrative resources. The authorities should effectively address forthcoming recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR and the European Union stands ready to assist in this process.

The European Union looks forward to further developing its long-standing partnership with the Kyrgyz Republic, including through a new bilateral agreement, with strengthening democracy and rule of law and increasing economic prosperity as key priorities.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.