



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 978
Vienna, 19 December 2013**

**EU statement on the Parliamentary Elections in
Turkmenistan**

The EU welcomes the invitation from Turkmenistan to ODIHR for the first time to assess its parliamentary elections, in compliance with the relevant OSCE commitments. We strongly underline the fact that real political competition and genuine political pluralism, which would provide for the functioning of a political opposition, are needed for a truly democratic political system.

We noted with concern the shortcomings of the general framework for the elections outlined by the Needs Assessment Report according to which, although Turkmenistan made some improvement in consolidating its legal framework for elections, progress needs to be made in bringing the legal framework in line with OSCE commitments for democratic elections and in implementing it. In addition, fundamental freedoms continue to be restricted and the choice between competing political alternatives is limited in the absence of an opposition.

We look forward to the report of the Election Assessment Mission of ODIHR and of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. We call on Turkmenistan to implement recommendations contained in ODIHR's Final Report in line with OSCE commitments.

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 country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area 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.