



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 970
Vienna, 7 November 2013**

EU statement on the municipal elections in Kosovo*

The European Union would like to draw the attention of the OSCE Permanent Council to the Statement by EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on the elections in Kosovo, issued on 5 November:

“I have been following the elections in Kosovo very closely and I congratulate the voters for their participation. These elections were crucial for Kosovo's future.

I would like to express my thanks to the OSCE for all the hard work in facilitating the elections in the north.

I also would like to thank Chief Observer Roberto Gualtieri and the EU Observation Mission for all their hard work and for the preliminary report issued today.

Their assessment confirms that in most parts of Kosovo the elections took place in an orderly manner.

At the same time I strongly condemn the violent incidents in polling stations of Mitrovica north. All voters have the right to participate in elections in a safe and secure environment, free of violence. The incidents must be investigated without delay.”

Yesterday the High Representative met Prime Minister Dačić and Prime Minister Thaçi in Brussels for a new round of the dialogue.

After the meeting the High Representative issued the following statement:

"I had a very good meeting with Prime Minister Dačić and Prime Minister Thaçi in Brussels today. Deputy Prime Minister Vučić also joined us for our discussion on the next steps in the electoral process in Kosovo and the next steps in the implementation of the April Agreement.

I am pleased that the Prime Ministers agreed today on the way forward for completing successfully the electoral process in northern Kosovo. The relevant authorities in Pristina will decide on the specific elements in the process.

The Prime Ministers also agreed that the work on the implementation of the April Agreement will continue with accelerated pace in order to complete the implementation as foreseen in the Agreement.

They reaffirmed their commitment to do what needs to be done to complete the task."

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA* and MONTENEGRO*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate 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 and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
