



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 998
Vienna, 30 April 2014**

**EU Statement in Response to the United Nations Special
Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the UN
Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA),
H.E. Ján Kubiš**

The European Union warmly welcomes H.E. Ján Kubiš, UN Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), back to the Permanent Council. Your Excellency, we thank you for your presentation on the presidential elections in Afghanistan, the current situation in the country, and the role of the OSCE in relation to Afghanistan.

The European Union pays tribute to the Afghan people's determination and commitment to democracy. The achievement of holding elections under the difficult circumstances that face Afghanistan should not be underestimated. Afghan institutions took the lead in organising the electoral process and security, which empowered close to 7 million Afghans to cast their votes, almost twice as many as in 2009.

Following the invitation by Afghanistan, the EU deployed an election assessment team led by Thijs Berman, Member of the European Parliament. At the same time, the European Union once more wishes to express its appreciation for the work carried out by the OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Team under challenging circumstances.

Now that the preliminary results of the elections were released on 26 April and the final results will be announced on 14 May after the adjudication of appeals, it is important for Afghan institutions to deliver on their commitments to the Afghan people and make sure that the second round of elections takes place in an inclusive, transparent and credible way that will lead to a legitimate outcome.

The EU will continue to engage actively with all relevant stakeholders throughout the process.

We value the work done by the OSCE in support of Afghanistan and the important role it plays in promoting regional stability and inclusive sustainable development in the whole of the Central Asian Region. In this context, we welcome the active participation of Afghan officials in the activities of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, and their participation in the Patrol Programming and Leadership Project run by the OSCE Office in Dushanbe.

The EU remains committed to supporting Afghanistan as it takes responsibility for its own future prosperity and security.

Finally, we thank once again H.E. Mr. Kubiš for meeting with us here today and we would like to assure him of our continued full support.

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, ARMENIA, GEORGIA and MONACO 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.