

**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE  
757th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 April 2009

**Statement by the European Union on the preparations for the elections in  
the Republic of Moldova on 5 April 2009**

The European Union (EU) has taken note of the second interim report of the Election Observation Mission to monitor the elections in Moldova, which was published by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on 30 March of this year.

The European Union notes that on the whole the election campaign is generally pluralistic and that the preparations for the election are being managed by the Central Election Commission in a transparent and professional manner. Nevertheless, certain negative elements should be pointed out, specifically the abuse of administrative resources, questions concerning the way voter lists are drawn up and unbalanced media coverage in favour of the outgoing majority party.

In its conclusions issued on 13 October 2008, the General Affairs and External Relations Council recalls that the pace and quality of reforms in the Republic of Moldova affect the nature of its relations with the EU. In this context, the Council encourages the Moldovan authorities to make the necessary efforts to strengthen the rule of law and to implement their commitments on human rights and fundamental freedoms. The EU attaches particular importance to the parliamentary elections on 5 April being conducted in a democratic manner.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, and the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway align themselves with this statement.

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\* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.