



## EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council 886  
Vienna, 03 November 2011**

### **EU statement on presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan**

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The European Union thanks the delegation of Kyrgyzstan for providing the Permanent Council with information on the Kyrgyz Presidential elections held on 30 October 2011, which are considered the first democratic presidential elections in this country.

In her statement of 31 October 2011, EU HR Ashton declared that “these elections constitute a final step in the process of transition from provisional institutions, installed in times of crisis, to legitimate state authorities, established through democratic elections. The EU has rendered support for every stage of this process. The Presidential elections are also an important milestone towards the establishment of constitutional order and further democratic consolidation of the country”.

We would like to congratulate Kyrgyzstan on the peaceful manner in which these elections were held. We express our deep appreciation for H.E. President Roza Otunbayeva for having led her country successfully through a challenging period of transition.

We thank the Kyrgyz authorities for having invited, in accordance with their OSCE commitments, international election observers. We take note of the 31 October Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions of the international

election observation, conducted by the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly together with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. Commending the work of the ODIHR and the OSCE PA, we specifically underline the fact that their methodology, thoroughness and long experience ensure an objective assessment of the election process.

We note that, according to the Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions, the electoral campaign was open and respected fundamental freedoms, and the electoral process provided inclusive candidate registration and gave voters a wide choice. However, we are concerned that the election day was overshadowed by significant irregularities, especially concerning the voter lists and the counting and tabulation of votes. We are also concerned at the allegations of misuse of institutional authority in the form of pressure and intimidation.

We look forward to receiving ODIHR's final election observation report and to discussing with Kyrgyzstan the comprehensive implementation of recommendations, including the improvement of voter lists, the amendment of electoral legislation, as well as the strengthening of the polling process, especially in view of providing the same high standards in all regions and to all voters in the country, regardless of their ethnicity.

We remain committed to supporting Kyrgyzstan in this respect and hope that Kyrgyzstan will continue to co-operate with ODIHR and other OSCE bodies, including the Centre in Bishkek, to address the identified shortcomings.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ICELAND\*\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

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

\*\*Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.