



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1245 Vienna, 31 October 2019

EU Statement on the recent developments in Kosovo*¹

The European Union closely follows the developments in Kosovo, including the events that took place during this month.

We recall our statement delivered on 18 January 2018 at the Permanent Council No. 1172 on the murder of Oliver Ivanović, in which the European Union strongly condemned the murder. The EU continues to expect that the competent institutions spare no effort to find the perpetrators and bring them to justice without delay. In that regard, all actors must remain calm, act responsibly and allow the rule of law and justice to take its course. We also once again underline the necessity to combat corruption and organized crime with determination and in accordance with the rule of law.

We furthermore take note of the peaceful and orderly early legislative elections in Kosovo, monitored also by the EU Election Observation Mission headed by Chief Observer Ms. Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Member of the European Parliament. According to the Mission preliminary statement elections were well administrated and transparent.

With regard to the incident of 13 October when, according to the OMiK Activity Report No. 34, “during the processing of by-mail votes received from displaced Kosovo Serbs, 23 Central Election Commission employees and domestic

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

observers reported a ‘bad smell’ emanating from some of the envelopes, before experiencing symptoms associated with an allergic reaction”, we note that an investigation is ongoing. We call all parties to exercise restraint and refrain from any statements or actions that may lead to increased tensions.

In conclusion, we underline that progress in the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina remains an essential requirement for both in order to advance on their respective European paths, in line with the European perspective of the region. Therefore, we urge both parties to redouble their efforts to engage constructively in this process.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, align themselves with this statement.

* Republic of North Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.