



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1164
Vienna, 16 November 2017**

EU Statement on local elections in Georgia

The European Union congratulates Georgia on the successful completion of the local elections that took place on 12 November, following the first round held on 21 October.

According to the preliminary conclusions of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission, the fundamental freedoms were generally respected, elections were well administered and candidates were able to campaign freely. Both election days proceeded in a smooth and professional manner, and were assessed in positive terms by observers. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission stated that the legal framework is comprehensive and provides an adequate basis for the conduct of elections in line with democratic principles. At the same time, shortcomings in the process highlighted the need for improvements to the laws governing elections. Any remaining inconsistencies should be addressed based on OSCE/ODIHR recommendations.

The European Union is committed to a stable, democratic and prosperous future of Georgia. In this context, we note the 2nd Joint Association Implementation Report on Georgia, recently released by the European External Action Service and the European Commission, which states that Georgia is successfully delivering on its reform commitments. The European Union will continue to support the work that has still to be done in several important areas and will stay committed to the thorough and continued implementation of our Association Agenda.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association

Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE and the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.