

Prohlášení
Statement
Déclaration

Vienna 5 March 2009

Permanent Council No.752
EU Statement on Election observation

The EU welcomes the announcement by the Chairmanship that a meeting between the Chairmanship, PA and ODIHR representatives will take place on 11 March in Athens.

As stated on a number of previous occasions, the EU attaches great importance to the partnership between the OSCE PA and the ODIHR, on the basis of the 1997 Cooperation Agreement and the MC decision 19/06. Their contents are well known to all concerned and should not have to be repeated here in the Permanent Council. Election observation is a common – and by no means competitive – endeavour of two partners, the ODIHR and the OSCE PA, whose complementarity is of great value. There is no question of one of them having the overall lead. Election observation is a signature activity of the OSCE and the election observations standards constitute benchmarks for democratization that are highly valued including outside the OSCE. It is never as strong as when both institutions co-operate with each other and speak with one single voice.

The EU is therefore concerned by the public announcement made by the OSCE PA last week on the appointment of leaders of three election observation missions in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Republic of Moldova prior to the appointment of Special Co-ordinators of the respective OSCE short term election observation missions by the OSCE CiO.

In this respect, we would like to express our full support for the efforts by the Greek Chairmanship aimed at facilitating the cooperation between the PA and ODIHR, thereby strengthening our common endeavour, OSCE's election observation.

The candidate countries TURKEY and CROATIA*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, as well as UKRAINE and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.