



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1114
Vienna, 4 October 2016**

**EU statement on the Referendum on changes to the
Constitution of Azerbaijan**

On 26 September a referendum was held in Azerbaijan on draft amendments to the constitution. While the voting took place in a peaceful atmosphere, there were shortcomings, in the process, notably as regards prior debate in Parliament, and activists were also detained during the campaign.

Considering this as well as the concerns raised by the Council of Europe's Venice Commission in its preliminary opinion on the constitutional amendments, the European Union invites Azerbaijan to take account of the Venice Commission's findings during the process of implementation of the draft constitutional amendments. The European Union will remain engaged in dialogue with Azerbaijan as regards these and other key issues.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

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