



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008  
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008  
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

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## **Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

**Permanent Council No. 703  
28 February 2008**

### **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the presidential elections in Armenia on 19 February 2008**

I would like to draw the attention of the participating States to the following Declaration by the Presidency of the EU, issued on the 22nd of February 2008:

“The European Union congratulates the Armenian people for the conduct of a competitive presidential election in Armenia.

The European Union notes the statement of preliminary findings and conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission which concluded that the presidential election in Armenia, an important test for democracy in this country, was conducted mostly in line with OSCE and Council of Europe commitments and standards. The European Union welcomes the genuine efforts that were made to address the shortcomings noted in previous elections.

However, the EU also notes that the report raised concerns about the electoral process and that further improvements are necessary to address the remaining challenges. It notes in particular that, according to ODIHR, improvements and additional political will are necessary to tackle concerns such as the lack of public confidence in the electoral process, the absence of clear separation between state and party functions, and ensuring equal treatment of candidates.

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The European Union looks forward to the final results of the presidential election and calls on the competent authorities to ensure that complaints are adequately investigated and shortcomings addressed.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia\* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

\* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process."

Mr. Chairman,

Since that statement was made, the final results of the elections have been announced. We welcome the restrained handling of peaceful demonstrations and call on the government and opposition groups to continue to exercise restraint and to engage in a constructive dialogue.

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