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**EU statement on the parliamentary elections in Ukraine**

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The European Union would like to recall the Joint statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle on the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, issued on 12 October 2012, which stated that the parliamentary elections of 28 October in Ukraine would be a litmus test of the country's democratic credentials.

In the wake of these elections, we would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the Joint statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle, issued on 29 October 2012, in which they stated:

“We followed closely the pre-electoral period and Sunday's voting process in Ukraine. The turnout shows Ukrainian citizens' attachment to a democratic and pluralistic society. Vote counting is not yet fully completed.

We take full note of the International Observation Mission's preliminary findings on the conduct of the elections - which present a mixed picture with several shortcomings - and of the difficulties faced by the local electoral observers. The final assessment will also depend on post-electoral developments, which we will watch closely. It is therefore particularly important that the Ukrainian authorities ensure proper conduct in the coming stages of the electoral process, notably as regards the remaining vote count, tabulation of results and following up on possible electoral complaints.

We expect that the future Verkhovna Rada will fully reflect the will of the Ukrainian voters, as expressed during Sunday's elections.

We reiterate our regret that the consequences of trials that did not respect international standards have prevented opposition representatives from standing in the parliamentary elections, and call on the authorities to address this matter and take further steps to reform the judiciary to avoid their recurrence.

Our engagement with Ukraine towards political association and economic integration remains based on its respect for our common values. We are committed to continue to work towards using the full potential of our relations for the benefit of the citizens of Ukraine and the EU”.

In addition to this statement, Mr Chairman, the EU would like to take this opportunity to recall that the role of Chairmanship of the OSCE brings with it particular responsibilities and expectations. We expect Ukraine to demonstrate to the OSCE community its unequivocal adherence to OSCE values, principles and commitments. We call on Ukraine to implement the recommendations to be included in the final report of OSCE/ODIHR and to co-operate fully with ODIHR in this regard.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland+ and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, align themselves with this statement.

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

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.