



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1291 Vienna, 26 November 2020

EU Statement in response to the AOB raised by the delegation of Georgia

We thank the delegation of Georgia for informing the Permanent Council about the conduct of Georgia's parliamentary elections. Following the announcement of the provisional results of the 2020 parliamentary elections, we reiterate our support to the joint statement issued by the international observers after the first round and we look forward to the OSCE/ODIHR final report, including their recommendations to address identified shortcomings. We regret both the mistrust that has affected the electoral process and the fact that opposition candidates did not contest seats in the second round.

The European Union strongly supports an inclusive democratic process and the respect for legal frameworks. The EU recalls that a functioning Parliament is the central forum for political debate, with all parties working together to advance reforms, in the interest of the country and in line with our mutual commitments under the AA/DCFTA.

We therefore hope and expect that all political parties can overcome their differences so that elected Members of Parliament can take up their seats, notwithstanding their differing assessments of the electoral process. We encourage improving the foundations for future elections through ambitious and credible electoral and judicial reforms. The Parliament also needs to play its full role in

addressing the urgent health and socio-economic challenges the country is facing due to the pandemic.

We remain strongly attached to the citizen's right to peacefully exercise her/his freedom of speech and of peaceful assembly and condemn all acts or threats of violence. We urge all sides to refrain from provocative actions and stress the maintaining of Rule of Law.

A high responsibility now rests on the political leaders of both majority and opposition parties to come together to enable Georgia to advance effectively on its democratic path and the implementation of our jointly agreed European agenda, in the interest of Georgia, its citizens and of EU-Georgia relations. The European Union remains ready to support Georgia in these endeavours.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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