



Brussels, 17 June 2014
140617/02

S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson on the local government elections in Georgia

"We congratulate the voters and candidates for their participation in the first round of local government elections in Georgia on 15 June. These elections are a further step in the continued democratic development of Georgia. We take note of the findings of domestic observers.

The elections were marked by improvements in electoral processes, and an increased participation of women. At the same time, concerns remain about campaign-related intimidation and violence. There must be no tolerance for violence or intimidation in the days leading up to the runoffs that are now scheduled to take place in a number of municipalities.

Both an accountable government and constructive opposition are important features of a functioning democratic society. The EU calls on all sides to work together in the new local administrations in the interests of Georgia.

We commend the Central Elections Commission and local civil society organisations for their important contribution to the electoral process. The European Union looks forward to continuing its close cooperation with the Georgian government. "

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