



PC.DEL/1543/18  
14 December 2018

ENGLISH only

## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council N° 1209 Vienna, 13 December 2018

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#### **EU statement on the Early Parliamentary Elections in Armenia**

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On 9 December, Armenia held early parliamentary elections, which were the first national elections after the political transition of April-May 2018.

The European Union welcomes that, according to the preliminary conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), the elections were well administered, held with respect for fundamental freedoms and enjoyed broad public trust that needs to be preserved through further electoral reforms.

Open political debate, including in the media, contributed to a vibrant campaign, although cases of inflammatory rhetoric online were of concern. We also note that the integrity of campaign finance was undermined by a lack of regulation and transparency. We encourage the Armenian authorities to address the OSCE/ODHIR recommendations in order to improve the electoral process.

The European Union is committed to a stable, democratic and prosperous future of Armenia. The early parliamentary elections were important in terms of enhancing public trust towards the electoral process in Armenia. We expect all stakeholders to continue concerted efforts to consolidate the democratic process and push further the modernisation of the country.

We look forward to working with the democratically elected new Parliament and the future Government to deepen our political and economic relations based on the joint commitments of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF 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 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, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.