



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

### **OSCE Permanent Council No. 1312 Vienna, 6 May 2021**

#### **EU Statement on Parliamentary Elections in Albania**

We thank the Delegation of Albania for raising the parliamentary elections that took place in Albania on 25 April.

We congratulate all those who contributed to making it possible for the people of Albania to exercise their democratic right to vote, despite the challenging COVID-19 context. Elections were held under a new electoral framework, adopted in line with the ODIHR recommendations.

According to the preliminary findings and conclusions of the ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission, the parliamentary elections were generally well organised by the election administration, while campaign was lively and inclusive. Stakeholders had sufficient confidence to participate and a reformed Central Election Commission oversaw the election process in a transparent manner, enjoying the trust of stakeholders at all levels.

The Observers reported concerns related to the misuse of state resources or functions by the ruling party and other public figures. Any alleged irregularities should be brought swiftly to the attention of the Central Election Commission and other competent authorities, and cases need to be duly investigated, including vote buying.

The EU will continue to follow closely the electoral developments until the final certification of results.

All political forces should now ensure the effective and democratic functioning of the country's institutions, as a result of these elections. The period of transition until the inauguration of the new parliament and government should not hold back the continued efforts to implement the necessary reforms.

We expect the new Albanian parliament and government to continue pursuing the country's reform agenda with determination, particularly on the Rule of Law. We reiterate our call for a constructive and inclusive political dialogue from all sides.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and SERBIA\*, 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 UKRAINE and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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