

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the nation wide local elections in Croatia 20 May**

The European Union welcomes the overall well conducted nation wide local elections held in Croatia 20 May and takes note of the ODIHR conclusions that the elections were held generally in accordance with international standards. This is a concrete sign that the Republic of Croatia is a stable democracy on the path to integration into European structures.

At the same time, the EU notes the concerns expressed by ODIHR, in particular with regard to minority participation and representation, and encourages the relevant Croatian authorities to address these questions.

The EU calls upon Croatia to continue the reform process at all levels in society. The EU stands ready to assist Croatia on her way to full implementation of the newly initialled Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

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