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**JOINT EU-US DECLARATION ON ELECTIONS IN ALBANIA**  
**ISSUED IN TIRANA ON 17 MAY 1996**

The United States and the European Union take note of the upcoming parliamentary elections in Albania as a further step in the democratic progress of the country, which is a matter of substantial importance to the parties in the transatlantic dialogue. They appreciate the role that Albanian institutions and Albanian political parties are playing in this context. The US and the EU call upon all parties concerned to approach the elections mindful of their common interest in consolidating democracy in a pluralistic society and free market economy.

The US and the EU specifically call upon all parties concerned to create general conditions that allow for a free and fair election process.

The US and the EU stand ready to assist in this effort and to observe the campaign and election process in order that the will of the people be effectively expressed by the vote.