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## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1290th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 November 2020

### **On the presidential elections in the Republic of Moldova**

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the citizens of the Republic of Moldova turned out in large numbers to vote in the presidential election on 15 November, demonstrating their commitment to democracy and the rule of law. The European Union congratulates Ms. Sandu on her election as President of the Republic of Moldova and notes with interest her reform programme and her commitment to combating corruption.

The European Union has taken due note of the preliminary conclusions of the election observation mission deployed by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). It fully supports the strengthening of democratic institutions in the Republic of Moldova and encourages the authorities of the Republic of Moldova to implement the ODIHR's recommendations and those of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.

The European Union will continue to stand side by side with the Republic of Moldova as it accompanies it on its path to resilience and prosperity, continuing the assistance it has provided for many years, be it through the Eastern Partnership, the Association Agreement, the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, the visa waiver regime or the recent aid provided to help the Republic of Moldova overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences. The European Union will continue to condition this assistance on the achievement of reforms in order to bring tangible benefits to the citizens of the Republic of Moldova.

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, Serbia<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Liechtenstein, as well as Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

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1 The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.