



*Delegation to the EU-Armenia Parliamentary Partnership Committee,
the EU-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee
and the EU-Georgia Parliamentary Association Committee*

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF THE DELEGATION, MEP Marina KALJURAND

on the so-called “presidential election” held in Abkhazia

Brussels, 23 March 2020 - “On 22 March, a so-called “presidential election” was held in the occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia, despite the disapproval of the international community.

The European Union does not attach any value to the *de facto* authorities’ decision to conduct this so-called “presidential election” - a step that further undermines the on-going efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict, nor does it recognise the constitutional and legal framework within which it has taken place.

The European Parliament is firmly committed to Georgia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, and calls for a peaceful resolution of the conflict by negotiation and diplomacy, including through the Geneva International Discussions, the activities of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia and the efforts of the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia. Last but not least, it calls on the Russian Federation, as the country exercising *de facto* control over the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia regions, to reverse its recognition of the independence of the so-called “Republics” and fulfil its obligations under the EU-mediated 2008 ceasefire agreement and its Implementing Measures.”

For further information contact:

Office of Ms Marina KALJURAND, tel. +32 2 284 53 94, e-mail: marina.kaljurand@ep.europa.eu

Eastern Partnership and Russia Unit, tel. +32 2 284 26 43, e-mail: DSCA@ep.europa.eu