

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Albania**

The Presidency of the European Union is deeply concerned at the continued lack of consensus among the Albanian political parties regarding a new electoral law, needed to proceed with early elections at the end of June, as agreed by all parties.

Albanian political differences must be solved by Albanians and within the time frame they have set themselves.

The Presidency of the European Union strongly supports the efforts of Dr Vranitzky, Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, with whom it is in continuous contact.

The Presidency urges all political parties in Albania to reach agreement on the electoral law, on free access to the media and on participation in the elections.

Should the current political stalemate not be overcome within the next days and elections not take place on 29 June, the EU, in close coordination with the international community as a whole, may be forced to reconsider its efforts in support of Albania.

It is up to the Albanian parties to create the right conditions for the future of their country.