



Brussels, 31/01/2024

Subject: Investigation of alleged election irregularities and fraud in Serbia

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear Commissioner Várhelyi,
Dear High Representative Borrell,

As High Representative Josep Borrell and Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi themselves noted in their statement following the parliamentary elections in Serbia on 17 December 2023, the preliminary findings and conclusions of international observers from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) offer great reason for concern regarding the electoral process.

Several international and domestic observation missions have concluded that the elections in Serbia could not be considered free or fair and have found evidence of irregularities and outright election fraud. The CRTA Observation Mission raises concerns specifically regarding local elections in the city of Belgrade.

Some of the findings include allegations of vote buying, misuse of public resources, falsified signatures of support on election lists, disproportionate government influence on media outlets, serious and well-planned manipulations of the voter register and migration of voters, including from neighbouring countries, as well as pressuring beneficiaries of social assistance and employees of state-owned enterprises to vote for the ruling party in order to keep their contracts or benefits.

We remain in full support of the people of Serbia who have been protesting for their chance to exercise their democratic rights and of Serbia's accession to the EU. Unfortunately, the serious allegations regarding the recent elections are incompatible with democratic standards and undermine this goal.

We therefore call on the European Commission and the EEAS to

- Initiate an international investigation into the parliamentary, provincial, and local elections in Serbia under the auspices of the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and the European Commission, with special attention to the City of Belgrade Assembly elections, the results of which should be reported to the European Parliament;
- Not recognise the results of the elections until a full independent investigation of the electoral irregularities is completed.

Sincerely,

MEP Thomas Waitz, Greens/EFA

MEP Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Greens/EFA

MEP Lukas Mandl, EPP

MEP Tonino Picula, S&D

MEP Andreas Schieder, S&D

MEP Tineke Strik, Greens/EFA