Elections should be conducted freely and fairly. 

Democratic Institutions

COUNTRIES WISHING TO JOIN THE EU MUST HAVE STABLE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND ENSURE INCLUSIVE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES.

- Elections should be conducted freely and fairly.
- Transparent, accountable and effective public administration is vital. This means professionalisation and depoliticisation of the civil service.
- There must be an appropriate balance between the central, regional and local governments to best implement reforms in the interests of citizens.
- Democracy needs strong and accountable institutions and participatory processes, centred around national parliaments.
- A strong role for civil society is crucial to strengthen participatory democracy and increase focus on the needs of citizens and business.
- The independence and effectiveness of key bodies such as the ombudsman and state audit institutions need to be ensured and their recommendations appropriately followed-up.

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