



**European Union
Election Observation Mission**
Presidential and Parliamentary
Elections

**The European Union has deployed an
Election Observation Mission (EU
EOM) to Ghana for the presidential
and parliamentary elections
scheduled for 7 December 2008**

Background to EU Election Observation

The main objectives of election observation are:

- To undertake a comprehensive assessment of the election process
- To enhance public confidence in the electoral process
- To deter fraud
- To strengthen respect for human rights
- To contribute to conflict resolution

The European Union deploys Election Observation Missions (EU EOMs) around the world to provide support for the development of democratic institutions and practice, and to assist partner countries in their objective to hold elections in line with international standards.

All EU election observers are bound by a strict code of conduct that guarantees their neutrality and impartiality. The EU EOM will collect and verify information concerning the election process, which will be used to prepare a preliminary statement of findings and conclusions issued within 48 hours of election day. A final report containing detailed recommendations for the future is issued around two months after the end of the election process.

EU EOMs are funded under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights.

EU EOMs assess an electoral process in accordance with international standards related to democratic elections, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In doing so the EU EOMs employ the following assessment criteria:

- the degree of impartiality shown by the election administration
 - the degree of freedom of political parties to assemble and express their views
 - the universal franchise afforded to voters
 - the fairness of access to State resources during the elections
- the degree of access for political parties and candidates to the media
any other issues that concern the democratic nature of the election (e.g. campaign violence, rule of law, legal framework
the conduct of polling and counting

Mandate of the EU EOM

The EU was invited to establish an EOM for the December 7 parliamentary and presidential elections in Ghana by the Electoral Commission. The mandate of the EU EOM is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process in accordance with international and regional standards for genuine democratic elections. The EU EOM operates independently from the European Commission Delegation and EU member states.

The EU EOM will observe the entire election process including:

- the legal framework and its implementation
- the work of the election administration
- campaign activities
- the role of State institutions and civil society
- the conduct of the media
- voting, counting and tabulation; and
- the environment in which the election is being conducted.

Composition of the EU EOM

The EU EOM is headed by Chief Observer, Nickolay Mladenov, Member of the European Parliament (Bulgaria). The Mission core team consists of seven experts who were deployed in Accra on 1 November. 24 long term observers have been deployed in all 10 regions of the country. EU EOMs use an established methodology for observing elections. EU EOMs do not interfere in the electoral process.

The EU EOM's core team analyses key political, electoral and legal issues and are supported by logistics and security experts. On election day the mission will be represented by more than 70 observers to observe voting and counting.

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