



**European Union
Election Observation Mission
to Afghanistan**
Presidential and Provincial
Council Elections 2009

The European Union is deploying an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Afghanistan to observe the Presidential and Provincial Council elections on August 20, 2009. This is the second EU EOM to Afghanistan.
The EU EOM is independent, impartial and neutral in its findings.

Mandate of the EU Election Observation Mission

The EU was invited to establish an EOM for the upcoming elections by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Independent Election Commission.

The mission's mandate is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process and to observe the extent to which the election complies with international standards for elections, as well as domestic law.

The EU EOM is independent from the European Commission Delegation to Afghanistan and EU member states.

The EU EOM's assessment is based on an established methodology which it applies in all election observation missions around the world. The EU has sent over 70 EOMs to 50 countries since 2000.

The EU EOM does not interfere in the electoral process while observing and assessing:

- 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
- the complaints and appeal process
- the environment in which the election is conducted

- to enhance public confidence in the electoral process
- to deter fraud
- to strengthen respect for human rights and the rule of law
- to contribute to resolution of conflict

Preliminary findings will be published shortly after the election. Two months later, a comprehensive Final Report will be issued including recommendations for future elections.

Composition of the EU EOM

The EU EOM is headed by the Chief Observer, Philippe Morillon, a member of the European Parliament.

His prolific biography includes:



Chief Observer Philippe Morillon

- Member of the European Parliament (1999-2009)
- Former Vice Chairman of the MEP delegation for relations with Afghanistan
- Commander of the United Nations Forces in Bosnia (1992-1993)
- EU Chief Observer to the Constitutional Referendum of Congo in 2005
- Chief observer to the EU EOM Legislative and Presidential Elections in Congo 2006

The Mission consists of 67 analysts and observers deployed throughout Afghanistan, originating from 25 countries. They will be complemented in their activity by some 50 short term observers who will be deployed on and around election day to observe polling and counting procedures.

Background to EU Election Observation

The EU has an established methodology for observing elections. Observers cannot interfere in the electoral process and have no authority to change or correct any shortcomings. All EU election observers are bound by a strict code of conduct that guarantees their neutrality and impartiality.

The EU EOM is funded under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

EU EOM uses the following assessment criteria during its observation of an electoral process:

- the degree of impartiality shown by the election administration;
- the degree of freedom of political parties and candidates to assemble and express their views;
- the fairness of access to state resources during the election;
- the universal franchise afforded to voters;
- the degree of access for political parties and candidates to the media, in particular the state media;
- conduct of polling and counting of votes.
- any other issue which concerns the democratic nature of the election (e.g. campaign violence; rule of law; legal framework)

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