



## PRESS RELEASE

### EU Launches Election Observation Mission to Afghanistan

**Kabul, 13 July 2009**

The European Union has today officially launched an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to observe the Presidential and Provincial Council Elections in Afghanistan, scheduled for 20 August 2009, and any further round. The European Union was invited by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to observe all aspects of the electoral process, and assess compliance with international standards and domestic law.

The EU EOM will be led by Chief Observer General Philippe Morillon. “We are very pleased to be here to support the Afghan people in these crucial Afghan-led elections, marking a key step in this country’s development,” said Philippe Morillon. “We understand the challenges posed in these elections and hope that our neutral, and impartial assessment will contribute to the strengthening of a legitimate and credible democratic process – which the Afghan people deserve.”

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, in order to observe polling and counting procedures. Field staff will be based in 8 regional hubs and will observe electoral activities in most of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Working together with Afghan staff, the EU EOM will be a 200-strong team.

Using established methodology in accordance with international standards, analysts and observers will assess the electoral campaign, voting day, results and post-election activity, including complaints and appeals procedures. They will also evaluate the general political electoral context, legal framework, election administration, media environment and role of civil society, the human rights situation as relates to elections, and the participation of women and of minorities.

The EU EOM will consult with national and international bodies, to gather information, views and concerns over the entire period.



EUROPEAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO AFGHANISTAN  
Presidential and Provincial Council Elections 2009  
ماموریت نظارت اتحادیه اروپا برای انتخابات در افغانستان  
د افغانستان د ټولټاکنو لپاره د اروپایی اتحادیې د څارنې ماموریت



“We look forward to working with the Afghan Government, institutions and civil society, as well as with the international community, while maintaining our independence and neutrality at all times,” said the Chief Observer.

The EU EOM will issue a preliminary statement after election day. A more comprehensive final report will be issued at a later stage, including conclusive findings as well as recommendations for the 2010 Parliamentary elections.

***Note to Editors:***

The EU has carried out over 70 observation missions to 50 countries around the world since 2000. This includes a mission to Afghanistan for the 2005 Parliamentary and Provincial Council elections, and a technical support mission to the Afghanistan Presidential elections in 2004.

The European Commission has signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Afghan Government and the Independent Election Commission, guaranteeing freedom of movement for observers to all polling stations and other premises, and access for officials to all relevant institutions.

The EU EOM operates in accordance with the ‘Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation’, signed at the United Nations in New York in 2005 by international election observation bodies. This commits EU EOM members to the highest standards of impartiality, objectivity and transparency.

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