



**European Union Election Observation Mission
Arab Republic of Egypt - Presidential Election - 26/27 May 2014**

الاتحاد الأوروبي بعثة متابعة الانتخابات
جمهورية مصر العربية الانتخابات الرئاسية 27/26 مايو 2014



Press Release

for immediate release

European Union Election Observation Mission to the Arab Republic of Egypt officially launched

CAIRO, 5 May 2014 - In response to an invitation by the Government and the Presidential Election Committee of the Arab Republic of Egypt the European Union has deployed its Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to observe the Presidential Election of 26/27 May 2014. The EU EOM is led by Chief Observer Mario David, a Member of the European Parliament from Portugal.

"The EU has received an invitation by the Egyptian authorities", said Chief Observer Mario David. "It is the first time that the EU deploys an Election Observation Mission to Egypt. We are here to observe the election and we will not interfere or supervise the process in any way. This is the election of the Egyptian people. We hope to contribute with our impartial and objective assessment of the election to the democratic transition of Egypt", added the Chief Observer.

The EU EOM arrived with a Core Team of ten analysts on 18 April in Cairo. A second group of 30 long-term observers joined the EU EOM on 25 April and 60 short-term observers will be deployed throughout the country together with a delegation of the European Parliament for election days. Additionally, a number of locally recruited short-term observers from diplomatic representations of EU Member States in Egypt will also take part in the observation. The EU EOM will comprise some 150 observers from all 28 EU Member States, Canada and Norway.

The EU EOM will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the entire electoral process based on a long-term observation in line with domestic law as well as regional and international standards. This analysis will include aspects such as the legal framework, the performance of the election administration, the campaign activities of the candidates and political parties, the respect of fundamental freedoms, the access to and conduct of the media, the voting and the counting, the complaints and appeals process, and the announcement of the results.

The EU EOM is bound by a code of conduct which does not allow any interference in the process – including advice to or criticism of any stakeholder in the election. The EU EOM will publish its initial findings in a Preliminary Statement, which will be presented in a press conference two days after the election days but prior to the completion of the entire electoral process. A final report will be published at a later stage, and will include recommendations, offered for consideration to the authorities, for possible improvements of future elections.

Note to Editors:

The European Union has signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Government and Presidential Election Committee of the Arab Republic of Egypt, guaranteeing freedom of movement to all EU EOM members and access to all polling stations and related sites and bodies and to all relevant information. The EU EOM is independent from any EU institutions or Member States and is committed to remain neutral and abide by the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct, as well as the laws of Egypt.

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