



European Union  
Election Observation Mission to Malawi  
2014 Tripartite Elections

– PRESS RELEASE –

## THE EU ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO MALAWI 2014 DEPLOYS 28 LONG-TERM OBSERVERS

**Blantyre, 27 April 2014.** – Following an invitation from Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) to observe the 20 May Tripartite elections, the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) Malawi 2014 today deployed 28 long-term observers (LTOs) to the districts of Malawi. The long-term observers left Blantyre this morning to their respective deployment stations across the country.

“While in the field, the observers will establish permanent contact with the election stakeholders, such as the election administration at district level, domestic observers, civil society, the candidates and the parties and the media, amongst other interlocutors. The observers are crucial to the EU’s long-term observation methodology, as they will be sending quantitative and qualitative information to the headquarters in Blantyre. They are the eyes and ears of the mission on the ground and they will document the facts which are necessary for our final assessment,” says Chief Observer Véronique De Keyser, Member of the European Parliament.

The long-term observers will work in teams of two, covering urban and rural areas. The EU observers will be joined by a group of 40 short-term observers shortly before election day, taking the total number of EU observers to around 80. The long-term observers will remain in the field until some days after polling.

The EU observers follow a comprehensive observation methodology developed throughout the EU’s experience of observing over 130 elections in more than 65 countries.

The EU previously deployed election observation missions to Malawi in 2004 and in 2009, as well as an Election Follow-Up Mission in 2012.

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