



European Union  
Election Observation Mission Maldives 2014



**PRESS RELEASE: EUEOM/2014/2**

Date: 09/03/2014

For immediate release

## European Union launches Election Observation Mission in Maldives

**MALE', 9 March 2014** – The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) for the forthcoming parliamentary elections in the Maldives has started its work in Male'.

An advance team of five election experts has established the mission's headquarters and will be joined by some 25 observers ahead of the elections to the People's Majlis scheduled for 22 March 2014.

The Chief Observer of the mission, Slovakian Member of the European Parliament and former Minister for Foreign Affairs Eduard Kukan, introduced the mission at a press conference today at the Mookai Suites Hotel in Male'.

Mr Kukan highlighted the importance of the elections to the Maldivian people, saying they were “an opportunity to strengthen the country's democratic process.”

He added: “This will be the first full EU Election Observation Mission to take place in the Maldives, and I hope that our presence will contribute to a peaceful and inclusive democratic environment for the benefit of the Maldivian people.”

The mission's mandate is to conduct an independent and comprehensive analysis of the election process and assess the extent to which it complies with international and regional commitments for democratic elections, as well as with domestic law.

“We will observe the entire electoral process including the legal framework and its implementation, campaign activities, the conduct of the media, voting, ballot-counting and tabulation, as well as the general environment in which the election is being conducted,” said Mr Kukan.

The EU EOM will work independently to offer an impartial, balanced and informed analysis of the elections. All observers will remain neutral and will work under an internationally accepted code of conduct for election observation. The mission operates in accordance with the “Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation” adopted in 2005 at the United Nations in New York.

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[www.eueom.eu/Maldives2014](http://www.eueom.eu/Maldives2014)



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Election observation is an important part of the EU's policy of promoting human rights and democracy throughout the world. In the last decade the EU has deployed more than 100 EOMs. The findings of EU election missions are based on verified facts following an analysis of all technical aspects of the organisation of elections.

A preliminary assessment of the mission's findings will be issued by Mr Kukan shortly after election day. A more comprehensive final report, including concrete recommendations for possible improvements to the electoral framework, will be published within two months of the end of the electoral process.

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