



Brussels, 19 March 2014
140319/02

P R E S S R E L E A S E

EU to observe elections in Guinea Bissau

The European Union will launch on 20 March an Election Observation Mission (EOM) in Guinea Bissau, in response to an invitation by the country's Election Commission. The EOM will be tasked with observing the Presidential and Legislative Elections scheduled for 13 April 2014.

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, has nominated Krzysztof Lisek, Member of the European Parliament, as Chief Observer for this EOM. The Core Team of six EU election analysts will be helped by 16 long-term observers joining on 24th March and 24 short-term observers joining on 7 April. The EU EOM will work in coordination with other international observation missions such as African Union and ECOWAS. A European Parliament Delegation will also join the observation mission for the voting process.

The deployment of an EOM confirms the EU commitment to the political stabilisation and to the respect of human rights and democratisation in the crucial moment of a return to the constitutional democratic rule. It also aims to contribute at enhancing the transparency of the process and the respect for fundamental freedoms.

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Shortly after Election Day, the EU EOM will issue a preliminary statement of its initial findings at a press conference in Bissau. The mission will remain in Guinea Bissau to observe the final counting and tabulation of votes and any complaint procedures. A final report, including recommendations as contribution for future electoral processes, will be presented at a later stage.

For more information, see the EU EOM webpage:

http://eeas.europa.eu/eueom/missions/index_en.htm
