



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION**  
GUINEA BISSAU – GENERAL ELECTIONS 2014



**European Union launches Election Observation Mission in Guinea Bissau**

**Bissau, 20 March 2014** – The European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) for the forthcoming Presidential and Legislative Elections in Guinea Bissau on 13 April 2014 has started its deployment.

The Mission is led by Krzysztof Lisek, a member of the European Parliament from Poland who has launched the Mission at a press conference today in Bissau. Mr. Lisek emphasized “the importance of these elections to the Guinea Bissau people” and the aim of this mission “to support the return to a democratic process and to provide an impartial and independent assessment of the elections”.

The Mission comprises a Core Team of five experts who arrived in Bissau on 19 March. A data analyst will also integrate the mission at a later stage. This team analyses political, electoral, human rights and legal issues related to the electoral process.

This Core Team will be joined by 16 Long-Term Observers (LTOs) that will arrive in Bissau next Monday. Shortly before the elections 24 Short-term Observers (STOs) and a delegation of seven members of the European Parliament will also integrate the mission. All the observers will be deployed throughout the country being responsible for the observation in their respective areas.

The Mission analysis the legal framework, the work of the election administration, the campaign activities of the candidates and political parties, the conduct of the media, the voting and the counting, the complaints and appeals process, and the announcement of the results. To this end, observers will be meeting government and electoral officials and representatives from political parties, judiciary, civil society organizations and the media.

The Mission will issue its findings in a preliminary statement that will be released in a press conference one day after the elections. A more comprehensive final report, including concrete recommendations for possible improvements to the electoral framework, will be published at a later stage.

*Media inquiries should be directed to Silvia Norte, EU EOM Press & Public Outreach Officer, (+245) 9279983 (+245) 5947195– [silvia.norte@moeuguinebissau.eu](mailto:silvia.norte@moeuguinebissau.eu)*