



European Union
Election Observation Mission Maldives 2014



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European Union in Maldives to observe 22 March Parliamentary Elections

MALÉ, 8 March 2014 – Following an invitation from the Maldivian Elections Commission, the European Union has established a mission to observe the elections to the People’s Majlis scheduled for 22 March 2014. The EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) is led by Chief Observer Eduard Kukan, a Member of the European Parliament from Slovakia and former Minister for Foreign Affairs. Mr Kukan will make remarks and take questions on the mission at a **press conference on Sunday 9 March at 10h00 at the Mookai Suites Hotel, Malé.**

The mandate of the mission is to observe all aspects of the electoral process and to assess the extent to which the elections comply with international and regional commitments for elections, as well as with Maldivian law. 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 EU EOM operates in accordance with the “Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation” adopted in 2005 at the United Nations in New York.

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.

In addition to the Chief Observer, the EU EOM has a Core Team of five experts who will be joined by four Long-Term Observers (LTOs) on 9 March. Some 20 Short-Term Observers (STOs) will be deployed closer to election day, including a group of observers locally recruited from EU Member States’ embassies in Colombo.

Shortly after election day, the EU EOM will issue a preliminary statement on its initial findings. A more comprehensive final report, including recommendations for future elections, will be published within two months of the end of the electoral process.

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