



Press Release

For immediate release
Lusaka, 6 September 2011

The Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Zambia 2011, Ms Maria Muñiz De Urquiza, Member of the European Parliament (Spain), has concluded a series of discussions with stakeholders in the forthcoming presidential and National Assembly elections.

After her arrival in Lusaka on Saturday, 3 September 2011, Ms Muñiz De Urquiza has held discussions with leading candidates and political parties, the Commissioners of the Electoral Commission, civil society organisations and representatives of the churches. The Chief Observer described her discussions as constructive and positive. Outlining the mission at the press conference she said:

“We have deployed our observers across the country and they will be observing the preparations for these elections very closely. They are a key part of our mission and have been attending rallies, talking to a broad range of stakeholders and as events unfold over the next weeks will be reporting on progress. We are a large mission that will deploy some 120 observers to all corners of the country to assess all aspects of the electoral process.”

She added:

“Elections are a key event in the political calendar. They represent an opportunity for the public and voters to choose the political leaders who will represent them in presidential office and in parliament. They are a reflection of the democratic fabric of society, and open and transparent elections, that are contested by a multitude of parties and candidates, are a key pillar of any democracy.”

The EU EOM has deployed 24 long-term observers in all nine provinces. They and the mission’s election analysts will assess the electoral campaign, voting day, compilation of results and post-election activities, including complaints and appeals procedures. They will also evaluate the general electoral context, the work of the election administration, the media environment, the role of civil society and the participation of women and minorities. A total of 120 observers will be deployed.

The EU EOM operates in accordance with the “Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation” adopted by a number of international bodies involved in election observation in 2005 at the United Nations in New York. Shortly after election day, the mission will issue a preliminary statement of its initial findings and conclusions at a press conference in Lusaka. A more comprehensive final report, including recommendations for future elections, will be published within three months of election day.

For further details, please contact:

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