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Deployment of an EU Election Assessment Team to Iraq

Following an invitation from the Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) the European Commission has deployed an Election Assessment Team (EAT), to assess and analyse the upcoming Council of Representatives elections in Iraq to be held on 7 March 2010.

The deployment of the EAT is a demonstration to the people of Iraq of the European Union's commitment to support democracy in Iraq. It represents a further contribution to enhancing transparency and confidence in the electoral process in the country, Its objective is to provide continuous strategic analysis and reporting on the ongoing electoral processes and to enhance confidence in the processes, during and after the elections. The EAT will also make targeted, short, medium and long-term recommendations in order to improve the electoral framework and conduct of electoral operations. The recommendations will be shared with the government of Iraq, the IHEC and other relevant stakeholders.

The EAT consists of 16 electoral and logistics experts, and operates out of three locations: Baghdad, Erbil and Basra. The electoral experts arrived in Iraq on the 2. February and will remain in country until the end of March.

A report with the EATs findings will be presented to the EU institutions and to the Iraqi authorities several weeks after the completion of the electoral process.

The deployment of the EAT is financed by the European Instrument for Human rights and Democracy (EIDHR). This mission is a natural follow up to the deployment of electoral experts to the Provincial elections in January 2009 and Kurdistan Region-Iraq Parliamentary and Presidential elections in July 2009 and the Commission's support to the political process in Iraq since 2005, to which the Commission has been one of the major international donors with more than €80 million.

For further information on EU-Iraq relations:

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/iraq/index_en.htm

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