

**2011 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO EUROPEAN UNION
ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION
PRESS RELEASE**

**LAUNCHING OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO EUROPEAN UNION ELECTION
OBSERVATION MISSION**

This Wednesday, October 19, 2011, **Ms. Mariya Nedelcheva**, European MP and Chief observer, launched the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) in Democratic Republic of Congo.

The EU EOM will, all in all, deploy across the whole country **147 greatly experienced observers** to observe the presidential and general elections. The core team is made up of 9 experts in media, political, legal, and electoral issues, as well as human rights and gender issues and coordination. A first set of 46 long-term observers arrived in Kinshasa last night. The observers are from 27 EU member States, Norway, Switzerland, and Canada. After a five-day training, the EU EOM observers will be deployed in all the provinces across the country from October 24. 92 short-term observers (STO and LTO) will reinforce the team a few days after the elections.

The EU EOM aims at presenting an impartial, detailed, and accurate assessment of electoral processes following the national and regional legal framework, and international standards and treaties signed by the DRC.

In her introductory speech, **Ms. Mariya Nedelcheva** stated that *"the European Union Election Observation Mission is here to observe this crucial moment represented by the forthcoming presidential and general elections, at an important moment when you are focused on consolidating the foundation of your new Republic, and reinforcing the Rule of Law and Human rights."*

Based on observers' reports, the EU EOM will analyze the Electoral Commission's work, the political background and the monitoring of campaign issues. The Mission will also provide an analysis of the legal process, follow up the evolution of litigation, and observe the behavior of the media, of which they will analyze the role, before, during, and after the electoral campaign. The EU EOM will observe the elections with neutrality, impartiality and independence.

Ms. Mariya Nedelcheva ended her speech, inviting the Congolese population to fully participate at this great historic moment represented by the November 28 elections: *"You have, once again, the chance to make history with these elections, the world will be, once again, looking at you and your beautiful country. You are the central figure in the democratization of your country."*

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