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PRESS RELEASE

EU Launches Election Observation Mission to Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, 16 April 2010

The European Union has officially launched today an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to observe the Parliamentary and Regional Elections in Ethiopia, scheduled for 23 May 2010. The European Union was invited by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to observe all aspects of the electoral process, and assess compliance with international standards for elections and domestic law.

The EU EOM is led by Chief Observer Thijs Berman, member of the European Parliament. "We are very pleased to be here to observe these elections based on our established methodology, developed through observation experience in more than 70 countries" said Thijs Berman. "We are neutral and impartial in our assessment and we hope that our mission will contribute to a credible democratic process."

The mission consists of 10 core team members (experts), 90 long-term observers and more than 60 short-term observers who will be deployed throughout the country to observe election procedures before, during and after the elections.

Elections analysts and observers will assess the electoral campaign, voting day, compilation of results and post-election activity, including complaints and appeals procedures. They will also evaluate the general political electoral context, the work of the election administration, media environment and role of civil society, the human rights situation as relates to elections, and the participation of women and minorities.

The EU EOM will consult with national and international bodies to gather information, views and concerns over the entire period.

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European Union
Election Observation Mission to Ethiopia 2010
House of Peoples' Representatives and State Council Elections

