



## EUROPEAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION KOSOVO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2013

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### European Union opens Mission to observe Kosovo Municipal Elections

*Pristina, 4 October 2013* - The European Union is deploying an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Kosovo to observe the Municipal Elections scheduled to take place on 3 November and 1 December 2013.

The EU EOM is led by Chief Observer Roberto Gualtieri, a member of the European Parliament from Italy. At a press conference in Pristina, Gualtieri said: “Our goal with this electoral observation mission is to support the democratic process, offering an impartial and informed assessment of the election. We hope that this will also strengthen the confidence of voters to take part in the vote and help create the best possible conditions for a fair and inclusive election.”

The mission comprises a core team of eight election analysts that will soon be joined by 20 long-term observers who will be deployed to different parts of Kosovo until the end of the election process.

Towards Election Day, the number of observers coming from 28 EU Member States as well as from Norway and Switzerland will increase to 100 with the further deployment of 42 short-term observers and about 20 observers from the local EU embassies.

The EU EOM, an independent and neutral body, will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the electoral process based on a long-term observation and a methodology developed over many years and will assess its compliance with international standards for democratic elections and domestic law.

This analysis includes the legal framework, the work of the election administration, the campaign activities of the candidates and political parties, the conduct of the media, the voting and the counting, the complaints and appeals process, and the announcement of the results.

To this end, observers will be meeting government and electoral officials and representatives from political parties, judiciary, civil society organizations and the media.

Following Election Day, the Chief Observer will issue a preliminary statement with the EU EOM’s preliminary assessment of the process. A final report - with technical recommendations for future elections - will be published at the beginning of 2014.

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