



**EUROPEAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION
REPUBLIC OF MALAWI 2009**



European Union deploys Election Observation Mission to Malawi

Blantyre, 17 April 2009: The European Commission has decided to deploy an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to the Republic of Malawi following an invitation by the Electoral Commission. It will be observing the presidential and parliamentary election scheduled for 19 May 2009. The mission is headed by Chief Observer Luisa Morgantini, an Italian member and Vice-President of the European Parliament. The Chief Observer has a core team of six election experts who arrived in Blantyre on 7 April 2009. They are joined by 29 long term observers who are being deployed throughout the country and will follow the different phases of the election including the campaign, the organisation of the elections, voting and the post electoral period. Forty eight short term observers will be deployed prior to the elections to observe voting, counting and the tabulation process, as well as the publication of results.

“The Malawian people will be called to elect a new parliament and president on 19 May 2009. I am honored to be here in Malawi with my team to observe this important political event. We hope that these elections will mark another important step in Malawi’s democratic development and that the Malawian people will be able to make an informed choice at the poll in a peaceful and calm environment” Chief Observer Luisa Morgantini stated. “I would like to thank the Electoral Commission for inviting us to Malawi and I would like to assure the people of Malawi of our independence and neutrality and therefore make a contribution to the transparency and credibility of the electoral process.”

The Chief Observer will present a preliminary statement to the public shortly after election day. A final report will be issued approximately two months later. This will be a more extensive and detailed analysis of the electoral process and will include a number of recommendations in view of improving, if necessary, certain aspects of the electoral process. The mission’s general mandate is to assess elections against international and regional standards for democratic elections. The observation mission will work independently to fulfill its mandate to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process and to offer an impartial, balanced and informed analysis of the elections.

The EU EOM will operate in accordance with the *Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation* and the *Code of Conduct for International Election Observation* adopted by a number of international bodies involved in election observation in October 2005 at the United Nations in New York. For more detailed information on the European Union’s policies concerning the promotion of human rights, democratic elections support and election observation please consult the information provided on the following website:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/eidhr/index_en.htm

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