



EUROPEAN UNION

ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION - SIERRA LEONE 2012

PRESIDENTIAL, PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

EU EOM DEPLOYS 28 LONG TERM OBSERVERS THROUGHOUT SIERRA LEONE

Freetown, 14 October 2012

A group of 28 European Union long term observers, coming from 22 EU member states and Norway, are being deployed throughout the country today. The observers arrived in Freetown on 10 October to observe the forthcoming Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Council elections.

After three days of comprehensive briefing in Freetown, EU observers are being deployed to all 14 districts of Sierra Leone including Bo, Bonthe, Bombali, Kailahun, Kambia, Kenema, Koinadugu, Kono, Moyamba, Port Loko, Pujehun, Tonkolili, Freetown Western Urban and Western Rural.

Over the next weeks the observers will meet with, among others, election officials, candidates and representatives of civil society, and will report their observations back to Freetown. A group of 50 short term observers are due to arrive in country closer to election day. They will also be briefed in Freetown and deployed across the country. A delegation of seven Members of the European Parliament will also be joining the mission nearer election day in order to observe voting, counting and the tabulation of results.

EU election observers are bound by a strict code of conduct that enhances their neutrality and impartiality. They do not interfere in the electoral process and have no authority to change or correct any shortcomings or to request changes during the election process.

After election day, the EU Election Observation Mission will issue a statement of preliminary findings and conclusions. A final report will be issued at a later stage.

*For further information, please contact **Javier Gutierrez, EU EOM's Press and Public Outreach Officer**
Mobile: +232 (0)79 250 959 E-mail: javier.gutierrez@eueomsierraleone.eu*