



Press Release

for immediate release

More efficient polling although increased incidents of violence and interference

ABUJA 13 April 2015 – “The EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) commends the Nigerian people, political parties and candidates, INEC and all other stakeholders for the continued commitment to the electoral process” said the EU EOM Chief Observer Santiago Fisas today during the presentation of the EU EOM’s second preliminary statement in a press conference in Abuja.

“Overall the 11 April election process appeared to be more efficient, with polling staff working diligently and improvements evident in the more timely opening of polling sites. However our findings also show space for systemic improvements. Procedural shortcomings continued to be prevalent. Card reader fingerprint verification was sometimes problematic, party agents were at times seen interfering in polling officials’ work, and essential ballot checks were not consistently performed during counting and collation” said the Chief Observer.

“EU EOM observers saw no evidence of centralised systematic fraud although some attempts at manipulation were observed” reads the statement.

“Credible reports show that problems were very severe in Rivers and Akwa Ibom states. These warrant further investigation”. He also encouraged those with grievances to address them through official channels. The Chief Observer called on candidates, parties and citizens to respond peacefully to the results.

The preliminary statement will be followed by a final report, with recommendations for consideration by the Nigerian authorities, to be presented to the public at a later stage.

Note to Editors:

The European Union was invited to deploy an observation mission by the Nigerian authorities and has signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The EU EOM is independent from any EU institutions or Member States and is committed to remain neutral and abide by the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct, as well as the laws of Nigeria. The EU EOM will remain in Nigeria also to observe the petition process in the coming weeks.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Press Officer: Eberhard Laue, Mobile +234 (0)809 6032 032, email: eberhard.laue@eueomnigeria.eu