



EUROPEAN UNION
ELECTION FOLLOW-UP MISSION
LESOTHO 2025

EU Follow-up Mission urges renewed momentum for electoral reform in Lesotho

Maseru, 21 November 2025

The European Union has deployed an Election Follow-up Mission (EU EFM) to the Kingdom of Lesotho to assess progress in implementing the recommendations of the EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) for the 2022 National Assembly elections. The mission is led by Mr. Andreas Schieder, Member of the European Parliament.

The mission met with a wide range of Basotho stakeholders, including representatives of the Government, National Assembly, Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Judiciary, Lesotho Communications Authority, civil society, media, and development partners. A stakeholder round-table convened by the mission on 21 November 2025 provided a forum to review the status of reforms, identify remaining challenges, and discuss next steps towards strengthening democratic institutions ahead of the next electoral cycle.

The 2022 EU EOM issued 21 recommendations covering the legal framework, electoral administration, voter registration, media freedom, political finance, and dispute resolution. Seven priority recommendations were identified, including measures to guarantee the independence and financial autonomy of the IEC, to regulate campaign finance and prevent abuse of state resources, to strengthen capacity and independence of media, and to improve voter registration and civic education.

In his opening remarks, Chief of Mission Schieder underlined the importance of sustained political commitment to reform: *“Three years after the 2022 elections, it remains a critical window to advance on the constitutional and legal reforms that can reinforce Lesotho’s democratic foundations prior to the next elections. Implementing the EU EOM’s recommendations is not only about improving the conduct of elections, but about building public trust in institutions, transparency, and accountability.”*

Chief of Mission Schieder noted that Lesotho has taken some steps forward, with the Tenth Amendment providing among others for the establishment of a Human Rights Commission, an independent Media Ombudsperson, and affirmative action for marginalised groups. However, the draft amendment to the 2011 Electoral Act that is set to introduce a newly compiled voter register is still pending before Parliament. Overall, the pace of reform remains limited and needs to be revamped: *“The reform process appears in need of revitalisation. The Tenth Constitutional Amendment has been challenged in the High Court, and several institutions responsible for implementing the reforms, including the IEC, are awaiting necessary legislation. Yet there is still time and opportunity for decisive progress before the next elections.”*

He further stressed that reforms must be inclusive and transparent, engaging all political forces and civil-society actors to ensure sustainability and legitimacy: *“Reform is a collective national effort. The 2022 elections and the current stability provide a foundation for rebuilding trust, but confidence remains delicate.”*

The mission will publish a Final Report in the coming weeks, providing an updated assessment of the implementation status of each recommendation.

The Final Report of the EU Election Observation Mission 2022 is available at:

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/publications_en?f%5B0%5D=publication_site%3AEOM%20Lesotho%202022