



Press Release

EU Election Follow-up Mission urges Nigerian authorities to advance timely electoral reforms to restore public confidence and facilitate credible, inclusive elections in 2027.

Abuja, 3 October 2025

Responding to an invitation letter from Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) dated 25 July 2025, the European Union has deployed an Election Follow-up Mission (EU EFM) to the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 9 September to 8 October 2025, to assess progress in the electoral reform process and the implementation status of the recommendations offered by the EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) 2023. The deployment of Follow-up Missions is conducted in an organised manner after an EU EOM had been deployed before. The mission is politically neutral and non-partisan. It is independent in its findings and recommendations, always respecting the sovereignty of the host country.

The EU EFM's Chief of Mission is Mr Barry Andrews, former Chief Observer of the EU EOM 2023 and Member of the European Parliament. The EFM has met with a broad range of stakeholders, including the INEC, members of the National Assembly, political parties, civil society, media institutions and practitioners, and development partners. The EU EFM appreciates the constructive and cooperative exchanges during its meetings.

At a press conference held today in Abuja, Chief of Mission Barry Andrews stated:

*“The country’s democratic resilience depends on reforms that citizens can believe in, and while we welcome the legislative momentum seen in the Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill 2025 and the ongoing constitutional review process, **time is rapidly running out**. Unless these reforms are concluded within the next few months, there is a risk of repeating the serious shortcomings of 2023. We encourage all political actors to seize the momentum to deliver reforms that can safeguard transparency, inclusiveness, and credibility in the 2027 elections.”*

The EU EOM in 2023 provided 23 recommendations, including six priority ones: strengthening INEC's independence, ensuring a transparent results transmission system, safeguarding freedom of expression, addressing impunity for electoral offences, eliminating legal ambiguities, and promoting meaningful representation of women.

Mr Andrews highlighted the value of collaboration between civil society and the National Assembly:

“We are encouraged by the constructive cooperation between civil society organisations and members of the legislature, particularly in shaping proposals for a stronger legal framework. This inclusive engagement is an important sign of commitment to reforms that can strengthen credibility and foster greater public confidence in the electoral process.”

The EFM found that while 2 recommendations have been partially implemented, 1 fully implemented, and 8 are ongoing, 3 are too early to determine, and 9 have not been implemented.

The Chief of Mission underlined two key issues for restoring confidence in the electoral process:

“Public confidence in INEC remains low, despite efforts made and progress achieved. In this context, a merit-based and non-partisan appointment process of its new Chairperson would send a powerful signal of commitment to credible elections. Another important step in this direction would be a robust system for real-time publication of polling unit and collation results, allowing citizens to verify both paper and electronic records.”

A comprehensive final report of the EU Follow-up Mission will be published in the coming months. The Final Report of the EU Election Observation Mission of 2023 is available here: https://www.eas.europa.eu/eom-nigeria-2023/european-union-election-observation-mission-nigeria-2023-final-report_en?s=410279