European Union Electoral Observation Mission in Guinea Bissau deploys observers throughout the country

Bissau, 26 March 2014 – The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) has deployed today 16 Long-Term Observers to the regions of Guinea Bissau.

The observers, from several European countries, arrived in Guinea Bissau last Monday, on 24 March, and will be joined by 24 short-term observers shortly before the elections. The observers will assess the electoral procedures during the pre-electoral period, the voting, the counting, regional and national tabulation of results. A delegation of four Members of the European Parliament will also participate in the Mission.

Before leaving the capital, the 16 observers attended a two days briefing in which they were provided with information on the country's socio-political situation and, particularly, on the electoral process. Over the next few weeks the observers will meet electoral officials, candidates and political parties, civil society representatives, the media and Guinea Bissau voters in their respective areas of observation.

A core team of five EU EOM observers, responsible for the set-up and co-ordination of the Mission, has arrived in Bissau on 19 March. The Mission is present in the country as a response to the National Electoral Commission (CNE) invitation and has the goal to analyze the electoral process and to develop an impartial, balanced and documented assessment. The observers are bound by a code of conduct based on the principles of neutrality, impartiality and no interference in the electoral process.

The Mission led by Krzysztof Lisek, a Polish member of the European Parliament, will issue a final declaration one day after the election; a final report will be presented at a later stage.

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