

EUROPEAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION KOSOVO LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS 2014

PRESS RELEASE

EU opens election observation mission in Kosovo

PRISTINA, 21 May 2014 - Following an invitation from the President of Kosovo, the European Union has deployed an Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the early legislative elections in Kosovo on 8 June.

The Chief Observer, the Member of the European Parliament, Mr. Roberto Gualtieri (Italy), said today: "These elections are another important milestone in Kosovo's further democratic development. Our presence here follows last year's observation of the municipal elections and reflects the EU's continued commitment to supporting transparent, representative and inclusive elections in Kosovo."

A core team of eight EU election analysts based in Pristina will follow all aspects of the electoral process to assess its compliance with Kosovo's legislation as well as with European and international standards for democratic elections. The team will analyse the legal framework, the work of the election administration, campaign activities, the conduct of the media, the voting and the counting, the tallying of votes, the complaints and appeals process, and the announcement of the results.

Twenty long-term observers will be deployed across Kosovo to follow the pre-election period and postelection developments. Towards election day they will be joined by forty-two short-term observers. Electionday observation may also be further reinforced by observers from diplomatic representations of EU Member States.

The EOM will issue a preliminary statements of its initial findings at a press conference in Pristina shortly after election day, followed by a final report some weeks after the publication of final results.

The EU EOM carries out its work independently from other EU institutions in Kosovo, including the EU Office in Kosovo, the EU Special Representative to Kosovo, and EU Member States' diplomatic representations.

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