



UNION EUROPEENNE
MISSION D'OBSERVATION ELECTORALE
République démocratique du Congo 2011



Press release

The European Union Election Observation Mission presents its Final Observation Report and proposes recommendations for electoral process reforms

Kinshasa, March 29, 2012 - The EU-EOM headed by **Ms. Mariya Nedelcheva**, is making public its final report analyzing the whole Congolese electoral process. The EU-EOM has been present in Democratic Republic of Congo from October 19, 2012 to January 13, 2012, to answer the invitation of both the Congolese government and the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI). The Mission presents a detailed report along with 22 recommendations with a view to improving the implementation of the next elections across the country. The final report includes all the different opinions as they were presented in the Mission's previous documents and press releases. **Ms. Mariya Nedelcheva**, Chief Observer and Bulgarian Member of the EP arrived in Kinshasa on Tuesday, March 27 in order to meet Congolese authorities and hand in the Mission's Final Report.

Ms. Mariya Nedelcheva and Mr. Jean Michel Dumond, Head of the European Union Delegation, have met high rank government officials, the CENI members, political parties, observers groups, and civil society representatives. The chief Observer has, during her meetings, explained the Report main conclusions and recommendations, which are a work result of 147 observers posted in polling stations and results compilation centers across the whole country. She reminded everyone that the EU-EOM has carried out its task independently and impartially for a positive contribution to the electoral process.

The short term objective is to allow the provincial and local elections to be held within reasonable deadlines and in the best possible conditions. This can be achieved if the constitutional Court is put into place, the electoral lists are revised, the CENI is reformed, and human rights are protected.

For better results at next forthcoming elections, the Mission urges the authorities to ratify the African Charter of Democracy, Elections and Governance. The text, signed in 2008, insists on holding regular transparent, free and fair elections.

Reforms likely to boost transparency and credibility of the electoral process should be put into place. The Mission recommends, namely the reconstitution of the Electoral Commission in order to guarantee the civil society representation and parity, this will contribute to transparency, independence, and reliability of the Commission, and therefore, to the smooth running of the new electoral cycle.

The Mission also recommends the auditing of the electoral lists by an independent structure and the abolition of left-out voters lists as well as the posting up of results at polling stations on E Day. Results from each polling station should be available to observers and candidates' and political parties' delegates as soon as possible and without any restrictions. The CENI should systematically put on line scanned copies of each polling station results in order to allow transparency of elections. Election campaign expenses should be controlled and the use of State property should be punished.

On the Human Rights side, the Mission recommends to fight impunity in order to shed light on violence committed during the campaign, on and after E Day, for instance, concerning the behavior of the police and some local authorities. Medias and journalists should not be threatened, intimidated, and attacked any more. Different candidates should have fair access to Medias and the Audiovisual and Communication High Council (CSAC) should act as a regulator with impartiality and avoid any arbitrary action.

The Chief Observer, Ms. Mariya Nedelcheva, has, once more, congratulated the Congolese population on their sense of civic responsibility throughout these elections and thanked them for the warm welcome. She concluded in these terms: *"for the next forthcoming elections the Congolese authorities and the civil society have to work even harder in order to improve the organization of the elections to guarantee the transparency and reliability of Congolese democracy. Only dialogue and consensus among different actors in the electoral process will make it possible for democracy in D R Congo to go ahead. I wish the EU-EOM recommendations to*



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contribute to the building and reinforcement of this growing democracy to ensure the country, region stability and the observance of Human Rights.”

Tomorrow morning, the EU-EOM will distribute its observers' equipment to organizations working in the Congolese democratic process because they are an important link in the building of the Congolese democracy.

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