



European Union Election Observation Mission

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20 European Union long-term observers deployed to the field

Pristina, 12 October 2013 – The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) deployed today 20 long-term observers (LTOs) throughout Kosovo. Ten cars with teams of two EU observers departed Pristina this morning to reach the municipalities in which they will stay until the end of the election process.

“Our role is to carry out a comprehensive observation of the whole election process both at the central and regional levels, in Pristina and in all parts of Kosovo. In addition to the core team of eight experts based in Pristina, 20 long-term observers will be our eyes and ears in the field, helping us to collect reliable information”, said Peter Palmer, Deputy Chief Observer at the LTO’s departure.

While observing the process, LTOs will abide by a code of conduct which stipulates, among other things, that they will “undertake their duties in an unobtrusive manner”. They will follow a clear defined methodology to ensure that information on the conduct of the elections is systematically gathered.

Observers will be meeting government and electoral officials and representatives from political parties, the judiciary, civil society organizations and the media; their observation will focus on the campaign activities of the candidates and political parties, the coverage of the media and the preparations for polling.

Towards Election Day, they will be joined by further 42 short-term observers and observers from the local EU embassies. They will then visit polling stations in order to observe the opening of the stations as well as the voting and counting operations.

The EU Election Observation Mission in Kosovo was established on 4 October 2013 to observe the Municipal elections scheduled to take place on 3 November and 1 December 2013. It is led by Chief Observer Roberto Gualtieri, a member of the European Parliament. The EU EOM does not interfere in the electoral process and has no authority to change, improve or correct any shortcomings or to request changes during the election process.

Following Election Day, the Chief Observer will issue a preliminary statement with the EU Election Observation Mission’s preliminary assessment of the process. A final report - with recommendations for future elections - will be published at the beginning of 2014.

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