

**Press Release** 

## **EU ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION DEPLOYS 34 LONG-TERM OBSERVERS**

**KATHMANDU, 17 OCTOBER 2013** – The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM), lead by Chief Observer Eva Joly, a member of the European Parliament, deployed today a group of 34 Long Term Observers throughout Nepal. The observers arrived in the country on 13 October to observe the Constituent Assembly elections scheduled for 19 November.

After three days of comprehensive briefing in Kathmandu, EU observers are being deployed to all regions of Nepal. Over the next weeks the observers will meet with, among others, election officials, candidates and representatives of civil society, and will report their observations back to Kathmandu.

Shortly before elections, a group of 40 Short-Term Observers together with a Delegation of members of the European Parliament and locally-recruited short term observers from EU members states embassies will be joining the mission in order to observe voting, counting and the tabulation of results. In total, the EU EOM will comprise over 100 Observers from 26 Member States as well as Norway and Switzerland.

EU election observers are bound by a strict code of conduct that ensures their neutrality and impartiality. They do not interfere in the electoral process and have no authority to change or correct any shortcomings or to request changes during the election process.

The EU EOM will issue a preliminary statement shortly after the elections. A final report - with technical recommendations for future elections - will be published later.

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