



## **European Union Election Observation Mission to East Timor**

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# ***Press Release***

*Dili, 14 April 2002, 19:00*

## **EU Chief Observer says Polling Day Proceedings Impressive**

European Union Chief Observer, John Bowis, M.E.P., tonight congratulated the election staff on conducting the polling day proceedings. "My initial response is that the polling day proceedings have been impressive. For the first time Timorese polling station staff have been in full control and they have carried out their responsibilities coolly and effectively.

"I also congratulate the voters on the dignified way they have gone to the polls. It was a slow start in many places but the additional number of polling stations and the decision of people not all to rush to vote at the opening of polls have meant no serious delays and an orderly process. I am still receiving reports from our team of 40 observers across the Nation but the feeling is: so far so good – a few minor problems around the Country did not have any significant impact on the overall good impression.

"Now we move on to the count. I shall announce our initial conclusions on the campaign and election process as a whole, immediately following the declaration of the result."

Media outlets are welcome to approach the EUEOM for further information. Please contact Peter Erben on [peter.erben@undp.org](mailto:peter.erben@undp.org) or on mobile phone 0417 894 236. We also refer to our website on **[www.eueom.org](http://www.eueom.org)**, which is updated on a daily basis.