



EUROPEAN UNION
ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION - NEPAL 2013
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Press Release

EU CHIEF OBSERVER ENCOURAGES INCLUSIVE AND PEACEFUL ELECTORAL PROCESS

KATHMANDU, 31 October 2013 – Inclusiveness and a violence-free environment have been described by Ms. Eva Joly, the Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Nepal, as key elements for the success and credibility of the forthcoming Constituent Assembly Elections. *“These elections represent a significant step in the democratic development of Nepal. To meet this challenge it is crucial that all stakeholders engage themselves in the conduct of an inclusive and peaceful electoral process”*, Ms Joly said.

The EU EOM’s Chief Observer made these remarks in the context of her three-day visit to Nepal. During her visit Ms Joly had consultations with the President of Nepal, the Chief Election Commissioner, the Chief Justice and Chairman of the Interim Election Council, as well as with political party leaders, media representatives and other stakeholders involved in the electoral process.

“During my meetings I was informed that all possible measures are being undertaken to conduct the elections for the Constituent Assembly as planned. Authorities also assured me that everything is being done to provide a safe environment in which voters can cast their votes free from obstruction. We are now in the process of observing and analysing in depth all aspects of the process and we will issue a preliminary statement on the elections 48 hours after polling day”, said Eva Joly. The EU EOM Chief Observer also highlighted the high level of commitment she has perceived amongst the representatives of the civil society groups which she met, as well as from Nepalese voters in general.

On election day the EU EOM will deploy over 100 Observers from all 28 Member States, as well as from Norway and Switzerland, throughout the country. Its mandate is to provide an impartial and objective assessment of the entire electoral process. Chief Observer Joly will present the preliminary findings of the EU EOM in a press conference two days after election day. A more comprehensive final report, including recommendations for future electoral processes in Nepal, will be published within two months

For further information, please contact **Press Officer Eberhard Laue**
Mobile +977 9801 101986 E-mail: eberhard.laue@eueomnepal.eu

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