



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION - PRESS RELEASE

### **EU to deploy observers for elections in Nicaragua and the Central American Parliament**

Brussels, 21 October 2011 - Upon invitation of the Nicaragua authorities, the European Union is deploying an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Nicaragua and elections to the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), scheduled to take place on 6 November 2011.

*"I am delighted that, as in the case of previous elections, the EU could reply positively to Nicaragua's invitation to observe this important electoral process and deploy the EU EOM for the general elections. I am convinced that the presence of observers, national and international, throughout the country covering the whole electoral process, will contribute to enhancing transparency and public confidence in the electoral processes in Nicaragua,"* said Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission.

Led by the Chief observer, Luis Yanez-Barnuevo Garcia, Member of the European Parliament, more than 80 observers will follow and assess the whole process including preparations and campaign all over Nicaragua, voting, counting and tabulation of the results as well as the post-election period. The EU EOM will liaise with the national authorities and key players in the election process, including national and international observers.

A first team of 10 experts arrived in the country on 12 October. The mission will also include Long Term Observers (LTOs) and Short Term Observers (STOs) and will be reinforced by a delegation of 7 Members of the European Parliament chaired by Inés Ayala Sender for the election period.

The EOM will issue a preliminary statement after the polling day and once the entire process is over, a comprehensive assessment and recommendations, all based on observation of exhaustive facts and information.

This will be the fourth EU EOM in Nicaragua. In the region, EU EOMs have been deployed in Guatemala (2007) and Salvador (2009).

The EU is making available 3,6 million Euros from the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) to meet the costs of this mission.

For additional information, see also the internet site of the EU EOM:

[www.moeue-nicaragua.eu](http://www.moeue-nicaragua.eu)

Contacts :

[Sebastien Brabant](#) (+32 2 298 64 33)

[Maja Kocijancic](#) (+32 2 298 65 70)

[Michael Mann](#) (+32 2 299 97 80)

