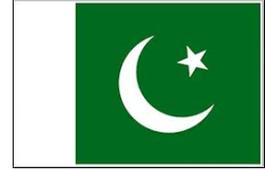




**European Union  
Election Observation Mission  
Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
General Elections 2013**



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*For Immediate Release*

**European Union Launches  
Election Observation Mission to Pakistan**

Following an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, the European Union is deploying an Election Observation Mission to observe the 11 May elections.

The Chief Observer of the mission, a German Member of the European Parliament, Mr. **Michael Gahler**, says about the launch of the mission:

***“The EU mission is here to support genuine elections in Pakistan by offering a neutral and public assessment of the different aspects of the process, and to make recommendations for the future. We will have observers in different parts of the country looking at what is happening on the ground. We’re proud to be part of these historic elections.”***

The mission will assess the extent to which the election process complies with Pakistan's laws and the international commitments signed up to by Pakistan, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The EU mission is **neutral** and is **independent** from any EU institution including the EU Delegation to Pakistan and EU Member States' Embassies in the country.

The mission will deploy **52 long-term observers to different parts of Pakistan**, security conditions permitting. Towards election day the number of observers will increase to 110, coming from 26 EU Member States as well as Norway, Switzerland and Canada. A delegation from the European Parliament and observers from EU Embassies in Pakistan will further reinforce the mission closer to election day. The mission's core team in Islamabad has eleven analysts with electoral, legal, political, human rights, and media expertise. The mission will cover pre-election preparations, election day including polling, counting and tabulation of results, and post-election day activities.

The EU uses a **comprehensive observation methodology** developed in over more than 100 election observation missions in more than 50 countries since 2000. The mission will meet electoral and government officials; candidates and representatives from political parties; and members of civil society and the media, among other stakeholders. The mission will analyse the legal framework, the work of the election administration, campaign activities, the conduct of the media, voting, counting, the aggregation of the results, and how electoral disputes are resolved.

The mission will issue a preliminary statement shortly after election day. A final report - with recommendations for future elections - will be issued approximately two months later.

The EU previously deployed election observation missions to Pakistan in 2002 and in 2008, the latter was also led by Mr Gahler.

**EU EOM Pakistan 2013**

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