



## European Union Election Observation Mission Uganda 2011



Kampala, May 6, 2011

The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Uganda 2011 has presented a series of recommendations to the Ugandan authorities, opposition political parties and civil society stakeholders designed to promote and support change in Uganda's electoral, democratic and political process.

The Mission's Chief Observer, Mr Edward Scicluna MEP, arrived in Kampala this week to present his Final Report on the Presidential and Parliamentary elections which took place on February 18, 2011.

Mr Scicluna and the European Union's Ambassador to Uganda, Mr Roberto Ridolfi, held meetings with a number of presidential candidates, opposition parties, the Uganda Electoral Commission, the Ugandan Human Rights Commission, the Inspector General of Police, as well as several non-government organisations concerned with electoral reform and democracy-building.

The EU EOM's Final Report contains a list of recommendations drawn up to address what the Mission described directly after the elections as "avoidable administrative and logistical failures". The recommendations include reform to the Electoral Commission and to the Broadcasting and Media Councils, changes to the voter registration system and the creation of a new register, greater financial accountability during campaigning, and a code of conduct which commits all stakeholders to non-violence and the prevention of intimidation.

Mr Scicluna said: "Our hope is that these recommendations will serve as an agenda for dialogue involving all stakeholders in Uganda's democratic process. We believe it is important that this dialogue should start sooner rather than later."

The EU EOM drew up its Final Report independent of any European Union institution. However, it will now fall to the EU's permanent representation in Uganda to follow up on the issues it raises.

Ambassador Ridolfi said: "The question of the legitimacy of the outcome of the election should not now be under question. Moving forward, what is important is that the government, political parties and civil society establish a peaceful and conducive dialogue inside and outside the parliament."

"The European union is concerned about respect for the right to peaceful demonstration, as freedom of speech and assembly are fundamental pillars of any democracy. We call on the protesters to respect the law and conduct themselves in a peaceful manner. The police should act always in a proportionate and impartial fashion."

Dr Ridolfi added: "On this, the EU is ready to engage positively with political dialogue and development actions."

The EU EOM was invited by the Government of Uganda and the Uganda Electoral Commission to observe the entire electoral process. Around 120 observers were deployed to the country's 112 electoral districts.

The EU EOM operates in accordance with the "Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation" adopted by a number of international bodies involved in election observation at the United Nations in New York in 2005.