EU to observe elections in Nepal

Brussels, 8 October 2013 - The European Union, in response to an invitation by the Nepalese authorities, is deploying an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to observe the Constituent Assembly Elections on 19 November 2013.

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, has nominated Eva Joly, Member of the European Parliament, as Chief Observer for this EOM.

Catherine Ashton issued the following statement today:

“The forthcoming Constituent Assembly elections in Nepal are a crucial step in the finalisation of the peace process and in the consolidation of the country's democratic transition.

In view of the EU’s long-standing support to the democratic process in Nepal I have decided, upon invitation from the authorities, to deploy an EU Election Observation Mission for these elections under the leadership of MEP Eva Joly.

I am confident that all stakeholders will engage in the process in a peaceful and democratic manner and that the EU Election Observation Mission will enhance the confidence of Nepalese voters in the process.”

Ms Joly will arrive in Kathmandu on 26 October 2013. A core team of eight EU election analysts is deployed in Nepal since 4 October and is following the electoral preparations. 34 long-term observers will join the core team on 13 October and will shortly reach their areas of responsibility.
Up to 60 short-term observers from 28 EU member states, as well as Norway and Switzerland will complete the deployment of the mission. A European Parliament Delegation will also join the observation mission for the voting process.

Shortly after Election Day, the EU EOM will issue a preliminary statement of its initial findings at a press conference in Kathmandu. The mission will remain in Nepal to observe the final counting and tabulation of votes and any complaint procedures. A final report, including recommendations for future electoral processes, will be presented at a later stage.