



**European Union Election Observation Mission
Arab Republic of Egypt - Presidential Election - 26/27 May 2014**

الاتحاد الأوروبي بعثة متابعة الانتخابات
جمهورية مصر العربية الانتخابات الرئاسية 27/26 مايو 2014



Press Release

for immediate release

Presidential Election administered in line with the law, in an environment falling short of constitutional principles

CAIRO, 29 May 2014 – “The Presidential Election was administered in line with the law, in an environment falling short of constitutional principles,” stated Mario David, Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to the Arab Republic of Egypt today in the presentation of the EU EOMs Preliminary Statement.

“Our 150 observers, deployed to 26 governorates, reported that procedures were mostly followed in a peaceful and calm manner. Polling, counting and tabulation of results – as of now - were generally well conducted”, said the Chief Observer during the EU EOM press conference. Adding: “While the Presidential Election Committee PEC administered the election professionally and overall compliant with the law, the decision to extend voting for a third day caused unnecessary uncertainty in the electoral process.”

The Chief Observer continued: “Although the new Constitution sets out a wide-ranging catalogue of fundamental rights, the respect for these rights falls short of these constitutional principles. Freedoms of association, assembly and expression are areas of concern. The Presidential Election Law does not provide for independent oversight on administrative decisions of the PEC. The drafting of the new law on parliamentary elections could provide an adequate opportunity to address these concerns.”

The Chief Observer further said: “The legal framework offers an adequate basis for the conduct of the presidential election, although it fell short of full compliance with applicable international standards for democratic elections in some respects. Notably, the right to vote and the right to stand for all citizens are not fully protected. The EU EOM noted also a general climate of limited freedom of expression, reportedly resulting in self-censorship of journalists. The imprisonment of Al Jazeera journalists and the detention of others without charge contributed to fear of a perceived declining freedom of the media amongst journalists.

The EU EOM will publish a final report after the conclusion of the electoral process. The final report will include possible recommendations for the improvement of future elections, offered for consideration to the authorities and other stakeholders.

Note to Editors:

The European Union has signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Government and Presidential Election Committee of the Arab Republic of Egypt, guaranteeing freedom of movement to all EU EOM members and access to all polling stations and related sites and bodies, and to all relevant information. The EU EOM is independent from any EU institutions or Member States and is committed to remain neutral and abide by the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct, as well as the laws of Egypt.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Press Officer (English): Eberhard Laue - Cell +2 0121 149 2448 - email: eberhard.laue@eueom-egypt2014.eu
Press Assistant (Arabic): Sara Hamdy - Cell +2 0100 099 9882 - email: sara.hamdy@eueom-egypt2014.eu