



**European Union Election Observation Mission
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

الاتحاد الأوروبي بعثة مراقبة الانتخابات
المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية



Press Release

for immediate release

EU Election Observation Mission presents its Final Report and technical recommendations for future elections

AMMAN, 27 March 2013 – Today David Martin, Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, presented the EU EOM's Final Report and recommendations following the parliamentary elections in January. Key recommendations address the implementation of universal and equal suffrage, the regulation of campaign financing and the regulation of the media. The Chief Observer also reinforced the EU EOM's initial positive assessment of the polls. The Final Report and recommendations were presented yesterday to the Independent Election Commission and the Government for their consideration.

Priority recommendations identified by the EU EOM include:

- Consideration should be given to undertake periodic boundary delimitation. Such a commitment could be enshrined in the Constitution and should include provisions to ensure equality in the number of people represented and to provide equality of votes. In order to reinforce the fundamental principle of universal elections as the basis of representative democracy, the delimitation of constituency boundaries should be conducted in such way as to ensure equality and proportional representation. In recognition of the immense differences in the electoral districts, future delimitations should seek to redress inequalities and avoid political gerrymandering.
- Through a national and inclusive dialogue Jordanians could decide on the electoral system that expresses the aspirations and wishes of the people for a future government. The current electoral system of 'single non-transferable vote' does not reinforce political parties while individual candidates largely benefited from it.
- If the current mixed electoral system is retained, consideration could be given the national lists to be open only for political parties in order to reinforce the role of political parties in the House of Representatives.
- Consideration could be given to remove provisions for concurrent regulatory power of the Independent Election Commission and the Council of Ministers in both the Election Law and the IEC Law to guarantee effective independence and unfettered regulatory power of Independent Election Commission.
- Election campaign media regulations could be improved by extending to private media the obligation for an equitable and neutral treatment of the candidates; by including specific violations and sanctions for the election campaign period and a provision for allocation of free airtime to candidates on the public broadcast media, particularly for candidates running at national level. Procedures regarding the allocation and format of the free airtime need to be clearly outlined in a timely fashion.

“The EU EOM hopes that these priority recommendations as well as all other suggestions presented in the EU EOM's Final Report – although they are non binding - will be taken duly into consideration by the authorities and all other stakeholders in the electoral process”, said the Chief Observer.



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Chief Observer Martin also re-emphasized the positive assessment of the parliamentary elections by the EU EOM as presented in the EU EOM's Preliminary Statement two days after election day. "The parliamentary elections held on 23 January 2013 mark in many aspects a milestone in the democratic development of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan", said David Martin. "The elections were technically well administered despite serious inadequacies in the recently adopted legal framework. Election day was largely calm and peaceful despite sporadic local violent incidences. Polling, counting and tabulation of results were well administered in the polling stations observed by EU EOM observers. However, the overall assessment of the impartiality and transparent image of the Independent Election Commission was negatively affected by delays in the tabulation of national constituency results", summarized the Chief Observer.

Note to Editors:

The European Union Election Observation Mission has been invited by the Independent Election Commission to observe the Parliamentary Election on 23 January 2013. The EU EOM was in Jordan from 13 December 2012 to 7 February 2013 and observed the Parliamentary Election with over 80 observers from all European Union Member States, Norway and Switzerland. The EU EOM had signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Independent Election Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 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 obliged to remain neutral and adhere to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct, as well as the laws of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.