



**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

European Union Election Observation Mission continues to observe the Presidential Election in Egypt

CAIRO, 19 May 2014 - The European Union was invited by the Government and the Presidential Election Committee of the Arab Republic of Egypt to observe the Presidential Election. The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, with the support of the EU Member States, responded positively to this invitation. The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) was deployed with a Core Team of ten analysts on 18 April in Cairo. A second group of 30 observers arrived on 25 April.

“Due to administrative challenges these observers were not deployed as envisaged. However, thanks to joint efforts and the constructive engagement of the Egyptian authorities, I am pleased to announce that the EU EOM is able to continue to observe the Presidential Election in Egypt as widely as possible throughout the country”, said Chief Observer Mario David, Member of the European Parliament from Portugal in a press conference today in Cairo.

“However, because of the delays, we need to adjust our mission in order to operate in line with our standard observation rules. These rules include a number of requirements which have to be met to enable our observers to perform their duties”, added the Chief Observer.

The EU EOM assesses the legal framework and continues to observe the campaign period, the performance of the election administration and the overall environment of the elections, including respect for fundamental freedoms, civil and political rights. We also assess the performance of the media, voting, counting and tabulation of results, as well as possible complaints and appeals.

“Despite the modified scope of work the EU EOM remains at all times impartial and will not interfere in the election, including by offering advice or assistance to the process”, added Mario David. “The EU EOM does not legitimise an electoral process nor does it validate any election results.”

The EU EOM will present its initial findings in a Preliminary Statement two days after the elections in a press conference. A comprehensive analysis with eventual recommendations offered for consideration to the authorities will be published at a later stage.

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.

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