



**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 Presents Final Report and Recommendations For Future Elections

CAIRO, 22 July 2014 – Broader guarantees for the right to vote and be elected, furthered participation of women to foster gender equality, and harmonizing parts of the legal framework and its implementation with the constitution are some of the key areas addressed by the recommendations contained in the final report by the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The report, presented today by Chief Observer Mario David in a press conference, offers a comprehensive assessment of all aspects of the May 2014 Presidential Election despite administrative issues with observers' equipment resolved with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The report includes a number of recommendations offered for consideration to national stakeholders, first and foremost by the authorities, to conduct future elections fully in line with applicable international standards for democratic elections.

Some of the recommendations, which could be implemented without amending current legislation, include:

- To further ensure the right to vote for persons turning 18 before or on election day, persons in detention awaiting trial and persons with physical disabilities through making polling stations more accessible.
- To further enhance the secrecy of the ballot by issuing detailed guidelines on the layout of polling stations and advising voters how to handle the ballots should be provided by the election administration.
- To enhance transparency of voter registration by timely publication of detailed preliminary and final information on the updating process.

Long-term recommendations, requiring legislative action, aim at enhanced public trust, pluralism and universal participation in the overall political process as well as the conduct of future elections. They include

- Ensuring that women are able to and do effectively register and obtain an ID to be able to exercise their right to vote. Introducing legal obligations to promote greater inclusion of women in elected office. Discussing publicly the Protest Law with a view to ensuring broad agreement for its review and full respect for the freedom of peaceful assembly as well as the right to fair trial and due process.
- Implementation of constitutional provisions, ensuring full respect for fundamental freedoms, in particular the freedom of association, the freedom of expression and the freedom to impart information.
- Revising of campaign finance regulations in order to promote a level playing field.

The report and recommendations were presented to the election administration and the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. A roundtable with participation of representatives of civil society, international organisations and technical assistance experts was organised to discuss the recommendations and their implementation. Although the mandate of the EU EOM is concluded, the European Union remains committed to support Egypt's efforts to conduct elections fully in line with applicable international standards for democratic elections.

The European Union Election Observation Mission was deployed to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 18 April to 16 June 2014. The EU EOM observed the May 2014 Presidential Election with 150 observers from all 28 EU Member States, Canada and Norway. 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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The full report is available on the EU EOM's website www.eueom.eu/egypt2014