

9th MAY 2014 EUROPE DAY EUROPE IN THE WORLD



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Role of the EU in election observation Global (except OSCE/ODIHR region)

Priorities

Election observation by the EU reflects its **commitment to supporting the democratisation process** and the strengthening of democratic institutions within partner countries.

The presence of EU observers **can enhance transparency and accountability**; it can promote **public confidence** in the electoral process and may serve to promote electoral participation. This in turn can mitigate the potential for election-related conflict.

The EU election observation is based on the **principles of independence, impartiality, transparency, long-term observation and professionalism.**

Top 3 Facts

In the last decade, the **EU has deployed more than one hundred election observation missions (EOMs)**. The EU observes about 10 elections every year; in 2013, 11 EOMs were deployed.

The EU has trained hundreds of long-term and short-term observers as well as electoral experts through high methodological standards, hence contributing to the professionalism and integrity of election observation.

The EU has supported the deployment of **thousands of national civil society observers**, greatly strengthening the transparency of the observed election processes and the ownership of national citizens.

Did you know?

EU EOMs are independent missions, led by a Chief Observer who is usually a Member of the European Parliament. The European Commission Communication on EU Electoral Assistance and Election Observation of 2000, in line with the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, established a systematic approach in the area of observation of elections.

EU EOMs do not certify election results, but assess the degree of compliance of the electoral process with international/regional commitments and national laws in the countries where elections are observed.

EU EOMs do not use 'free and fair' to qualify elections, as there is no agreed standard for what 'free and fair' represents. They provide a much more nuanced assessment of the technical electoral procedures and the overall observance of human rights.

Sierra Leone:
Election Observers in
Sierra Leone.



Senegal:
Election Observers.



EU observers:
Eu observers in
mission.

9th May Europe Day

Main links:

Ongoing missions:

http://eeas.europa.eu/eueom/missions/index_en.htm

EU Election observation missions:

<http://eeas.europa.eu/eueom/webdoc/index.html>

http://eeas.europa.eu/multimedia/interactive-features/index_en.htm