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P R E S S R E L E A S E

EU to observe elections in Malawi

The European Union has deployed an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to Malawi, in response to an invitation by the country's Electoral Commission. This is the third time that the European Union is observing elections in Malawi (previously in 2004 and 2009), which reflects the EU's long term commitment to supporting credible, transparent and inclusive elections in the country.

The EOM will be tasked with observing the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local elections scheduled on 20 May 2014 and takes place within the context of a wider, structural and continuous dialogue and co-operation between the EU and Malawi in the field of strengthening democratic processes and good governance (and notably includes the National Initiative for Civic Education NICE).

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, appointed Veronique De Keyser, Member of the European Parliament, as Chief Observer for this EOM. A Core Team of seven EU election analysts arrived in Malawi on 12 April; it will be joined by 28 long-term observers on 23 April and 24 short-term observers on 14 May. The EU EOM will liaise with other international observation missions such as the African Union. The EOM will issue a Preliminary Statement shortly after election day, and a Final Report a few weeks after final results are published.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu @EUHighRepSpox
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu @AshtonSpox Maja

Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu

Maria Lyra Traversa +32 2 2956368 Maria-Lyra.TRAVERSA@ec.europa.eu

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The deployment of an EOM aims to contribute at enhancing the transparency of the process and the respect for fundamental freedoms. The EU has supported African efforts to reinforce the democratization process across the continent. Since 2007, 38 election observation missions have been deployed by the EU in Africa.
