



Press release

Chief Observer launches EU Election Observation Mission to Pakistan

Islamabad, 28 June 2018

The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) for the general elections on 25 July was officially launched today by Chief Observer, Michael Gahler, a Member of the European Parliament from Germany.

“It is a great privilege to have been given this opportunity to lead once again the EU Election Observation Mission to Pakistan,” said Mr Gahler at a press conference in Islamabad. “The elections on 25 July mark an important stage in Pakistan’s democratic development, and I very much hope that our presence will contribute to a transparent electoral process.”

Mr Gahler explained that the mandate of the EU EOM is to observe all aspects of the electoral process and to assess the extent to which the elections are in compliance with the laws of Pakistan, as well as with international and regional commitments for democratic elections to which Pakistan is a signatory.

The mission is currently made up of a core team of 10 election analysts based in Islamabad. Sixty long-term observers (LTOs) arrive over the next few days and will be deployed across the country in early July.

“When the long-term observers arrive in their areas of observation, they will start to meet with election officials, candidates and representatives of civil society. They will report their observations back to the core team in Islamabad, and these will contribute to the mission’s informed and impartial assessment of the electoral process,” explained Mr Gahler.

The EU EOM will also be joined by a delegation of seven Members of the European Parliament, as well as diplomats from European embassies resident in Pakistan. At full strength, the mission will comprise up to 100 observers.

The European Union deployed an EOM to observe the elections after a mission was welcomed by the Election Commission of Pakistan. The EOM is independent in its findings and conclusions. EU observers adhere to a strict code of conduct for

international election observation that requires they maintain strict neutrality and impartiality in the course of their work and do not interfere in the electoral process.

Shortly after election day, the mission will issue a preliminary statement. The mission will remain in Pakistan until September. A more comprehensive final report, including recommendations for future electoral processes, will be published approximately two months later.

The EU deployed election observation missions to Pakistan in 2002, 2008 and 2013, with the last two being led by Mr Gahler.

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