

## **Factsheet - EU Election Follow-up Missions (EFMs)**

The **purpose** of an **EU Election Follow-up Mission (EFM)** is to **assess and report on the degree to which EU EOMs recommendations have been pursued and implemented**, and how far electoral reform initiatives have been undertaken. An EFM can also **contribute to deepen or refocus dialogue on electoral reforms and inject momentum in implementing recommendations in view of future elections**. It can also **assess the political context in which the recommendations are being considered**.

While the monitoring of electoral issues by the EU Delegation takes place during the whole electoral cycle, the timing and scope of the deployment of an EFM is adjusted to the specific circumstances and needs of the country. In general, EFMs are deployed at a **mid-point in the electoral cycle**, having left enough time after elections for initiatives to be taken and leaving enough time for additional ones to be taken before new elections take place.

The **EFM team** is usually headed by the **previous EOM Chief Observer**, a **Member of the European Parliament**. The team is composed of **electoral experts** familiar with the country and **EU officials** from the European External Action Service (EEAS), in some cases also from the European Commission.

An EFM lasts approximately four weeks, with the EOM Chief Observer and EEAS official staying in-country for about a week, whereas experts will stay the entire duration to prepare the Chief Observer visit and finalise finding thereafter.

Upon arrival, the EFM meets with **key election stakeholders**, including relevant state institutions and ministries, political parties, the election management body, citizen observers and other civil society organisations, and other representatives of the international community. Bilateral meetings are complemented by one or several stakeholders' roundtables (e.g. with civil society organisations, with women organisations, etc.). These meetings and the stakeholders' roundtable event help the EFM take stock issues such as:

- the level of awareness of and support for the EU EOM recommendations;
- the relevance of recommendations and newly emerged important issues;
- the possibility for reform within the available time frame before the next elections;
- stakeholders' current reform priorities and obstacles encountered during the reform process;
- the coherence between existing EU cooperation projects in the field of governance / Rule of Law and EU EOMs' recommendations in view of supporting their implementation.

The EFM also holds a press conference to highlight the electoral reform efforts (or lack thereof), consistent with EU recommendations.

EFMs issue a public **Final Report** containing a table tracking the progress in implementing recommendations from the previous EOM. The responsibility for the implementation of EOMs recommendations lies with national stakeholders who can take the electoral reform process forward. However, the EU, and in particular EU Delegations, will follow closely this process and will provide support when relevant/possible, in collaboration with EU Member States.