



European Union Election Observation Mission Iraq

Parliamentary Elections 2021

About the EU EOM

The European Union has deployed an Election Observation Mission for the Parliamentary Elections in Iraq scheduled for 10 October 2021. The EU EOM is led by Chief Observer Viola von Cramon, a Member of the European Parliament from Germany.

A core team of twelve election analysts arrived in Baghdad on 28 August. The core team is based in Baghdad and Erbil and analyses political, electoral, legal and media issues related to the electoral process. The core team is supported by logistical and security experts.

Twenty long-term observers from EU Member States and Norway arrived in Iraq early in September. They observe the electoral process at the governorate level and report to the core team.



Chief Observer
Viola von Cramon

Diplomats from EU Member States, Norway and Canada, as well as a delegation from the European Parliament reinforce the Election Observation Mission for election day.

In total, the mission will comprise around 80 observers.

This is the first European Union Election Observation Mission to Iraq.

EU EOM Mandate

The EU was invited to deploy an Election Observation Mission to observe the Parliamentary Elections by the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC).

The mission's mandate is to observe all aspects of the electoral process and assess the extent to which the elections comply with international and regional commitments for elections, as well as with the laws of Iraq.

The EU EOM is independent from the EU Delegation to Iraq, EU Member States and EU institutions as well as the Iraqi government, Iraqi institutions or any other international organisation.

The EU EOM will observe and assess:

- the legal framework and its implementation;
- the work of the election administration;
- campaign activities;
- the role of state institutions and civil society;
- the conduct of the media;
- voting, counting and announcement of results;
- the environment in which the election is being conducted;
- the complaints and appeals process.

EU EOM Methodology

The EU EOM Iraq uses the following criteria during its assessment of an electoral process:

- the degree of impartiality shown by the election administration;
- the degree of freedom of political parties and candidates to assemble and express their views;
- the fairness of access to state resources during the election;

- the universal franchise afforded to voters;
- the degree of access for political parties and candidates to the media, in particular the state media;
- any other issue which concerns the democratic nature of the elections (e.g. campaign environment – also online, social media, rule of law, and legal framework);
- the conduct of polling and counting of votes.

Background to EU Election Observation

The EU has a well-established methodology for observing elections.

Observers cannot interfere in the electoral process and have no authority to change or correct any shortcomings.

All EU election observers are bound by a strict code of conduct that guarantees their neutrality and impartiality.

The EU EOM operates in accordance with the 'Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation' adopted at the United Nations in 2005 by a number of international bodies involved in election observation.

The main objectives of EU Election Observation are:

- to support the democratic process in partner countries;
- to enhance public confidence in the electoral process;
- to strengthen respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The EU EOM will publish a preliminary statement shortly after the election day and a final report, including recommendations, after the end of the whole electoral process.

To protect the health and safety of the Iraqi people and the observers, the EU EOM Iraq is following all rules and regulations put in place by the Iraqi authorities.

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