



Unión Europea
Misión de Observación Electoral
El Salvador 2018



Press release

**Supreme Electoral Tribunal organises complex elections,
implementing electoral reforms introduced by Constitutional Chamber**

San Salvador, 6 March 2018 - “The European Union Electoral Observation Mission congratulates the Salvadorian people for holding calm and orderly elections. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal was able to deliver well-organised elections despite the complexity of the electoral system and budget constraints. We have witnessed that relations between candidates were respectful throughout the campaign. The Constitutional Chamber advanced electoral reforms, which could have benefitted from broader consensus with key stakeholders”, summarised Carlos Iturgaiz, the Chief Observer of the EU EOM and Member of the European Parliament.

The Chief Observer explained: “The Mission has been present in the country since the end of January to observe in a comprehensive manner the electoral process. On Election Day, our 88 EU elections observers reported from 395 polling stations in 14 departments”.

“Our observers reported that voting, counting and the transmission of results procedures were followed in a transparent manner and with sufficient guarantees,” Mr. Iturgaiz underlined. “The presence of partisan activities in and around polling centres did not contribute to a neutral voting environment”.

The EU EOM emphasized that freedom of expression was overall respected. A huge gap separated political parties in terms of paid propaganda, with a clear predominance of Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA).

“It is important to note that the final results are still pending”, said the Chief Observer, adding: “We anticipate that all parties will remain committed to use existing legal mechanisms to channel their possible complaints. The EU EOM will stay in the country to observe the remainder of the process.”

The EU EOM will present a public Final Report with recommendations within the next two months.

For media enquires, please contact:

Alessandro Gori, EU EOM Press Officer, Mobile: (+503) 7164 7977 Email: alessandro.gori@moeue-elsalvador.eu