

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EU ELECTION OBSERVERS

All EU observers are bound by the following EU code of conduct.¹ This is in harmony with the code of conduct accompanying the *Declaration of Principles for International Observation*, to which EU observers should also adhere.

1. Observers will respect the laws of the land. They enjoy no special immunities as international observers, unless the host country so provides.
2. Observers will participate in all pre-election briefings with their supervising officers.
3. Observers will be subject to the direction and management of the observer team leadership, carrying out their written terms of reference and covering the geographical schedules specified by team leaders.
4. Observers should be aware of the presence of other electoral observation groups, and liaise with them under the direction of the EU EOM leadership.
5. Observers will carry with them prescribed identification issued by the host government or election management body, and will identify themselves to any interested authority upon request.
6. Observers will maintain strict impartiality in the conduct of their duties, and shall at no time express any bias or preference in relation to national authorities, parties, candidates, or with reference to any issues in contention in the election process.
7. Observers will not display or wear any partisan symbols, colours or banners.
8. Observers will undertake their duties in an unobtrusive manner, and will not disrupt or interfere with the election process, polling day procedures, or the vote count.
9. Observers may bring irregularities to the attention of the election officials, but will not give instructions or countermand decisions of the election officials.
10. Observers will base all conclusions on well documented, factual, and verifiable evidence, and will keep a record of the polling stations and other relevant places that they visit.
11. Observers will refrain from making any personal or premature comments about their observations to the media or any other interested persons, but should provide, through a designated liaison officer or spokesperson, general information about the nature of their activities as observers.
12. Observers will participate in post-election de-briefings with their supervising officers and will contribute fully towards EU reports on the elections being observed.
13. Observers must comply with all national laws and regulations. Where these limit freedom of assembly or movement about the country, they must note where such rules prevent them from carrying out their duties.
14. At all times during the mission, including during private time away from work, each election observer should behave blamelessly, exercise sound judgement, and observe the highest level of personal discretion.

¹ The Code of Conduct for EU Election Observers was established by the Council Decision 9262/98 and is included as Annex III of the 2000 EC Communication on Election Assistance and Observation (COM 191).