The European Union has deployed an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Nepal for the elections on 26 November and 7 December

About the EU EOM
The European Union Election Observation Mission is led by Chief Observer, Željana Zovko, a Member of the European Parliament from Croatia. In total, the mission will comprise more than 100 observers.

A core team of election analysts arrived in Kathmandu on 25 October. The core team analyses political, electoral and legal issues related to the electoral process, and is supported by logistical and security experts.

EU Chief Observer Željana Zovko

What is the mandate of the EU EOM?
The EU was invited to deploy an EOM to observe the elections by the authorities of Nepal.

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 Nepal.

The EOM is independent from the EU Delegation to Nepal, EU member states, and all EU institutions.

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 tabulation;
▪ the environment in which the election is being conducted;
▪ the complaints and appeals process.

The EU EOM uses the following assessment criteria during its observation 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;

Background to EU Election Observation
The EU has an 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 second election day and a final report, including recommendations, after the end of the whole electoral process.

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