



European Union Election Observation Mission Sri Lanka Presidential Election, 16 November 2019



What is the mandate of the Election Observation Mission?

Following an invitation from the Election Commission of Sri Lanka, the EU has deployed an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to observe the presidential election. This is the sixth election the EU has observed since 2000. The EU has a well-established long-term methodology for observing elections. Since 2000, it has deployed over 150 EOMs across the world.

The mission's mandate is to provide an expert, comprehensive assessment of the electoral process. It assesses Sri Lanka's compliance with the international commitments it has made through various human rights instruments.

About the EU EOM Sri Lanka 2019

The EU EOM is led by Chief Observer, Marisa Matias, a Member of the European Parliament from Portugal. A core team of nine election analysts arrived in Colombo on 11 October. The core team analyses political, electoral, legal and other issues related to the electoral process. Thirty long-term observers from EU member states, Norway and Switzerland arrived in Sri Lanka on 18 October to be deployed across the country a few days later.

EOM Reports

The EU EOM will issue a preliminary statement a few days after election day in Sri Lanka, assessing the electoral process up to that point. The mission's overall conclusions will be presented by the Chief Observer in a final report only after the end of the electoral process, usually about two months later. The final report will also offer recommendations to improve future electoral processes.



Chief Observer
Marisa Matias

Background to EU Election Observation

The EU deploys election observation missions around the world to provide support for the development of countries' democratic institutions and to assist partner countries in their commitment to holding elections in line with their international and regional commitments and obligations. 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 Declaration says international election observation "assesses election processes in accordance with international principles for genuine democratic elections and domestic law, while recognizing that it is the people of a country who ultimately determine credibility and legitimacy of an election process."

It also considers requirements in national legislation, as well as international good practices for elections.

The mission is neutral and impartial, and EU observers do not in any way interfere in the electoral process, including by offering advice and assistance.

The EU EOM does not legitimise the electoral process nor does it validate the election results. All EU election observers are bound by a strict code of conduct that guarantees their neutrality and impartiality.

The EOM is also independent from the EU Delegation to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, 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 of candidates and political parties
- the role of state institutions and civil society
- the conduct of the media
- the overall environment of the elections, including respect for fundamental freedoms, civil and political rights

LTOs observe all aspects of the electoral process in their areas and report back to the core team in Colombo. The EU EOM will observe in all nine provinces of Sri Lanka, meeting with as many election stakeholders as possible.

For the election day, the mission will be joined by 30 short-term observers and by a delegation of up to seven Members of the European Parliament. They will observe voting, counting, and tabulation and transmission of results.

How do I contact the mission?

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