



## European Union Election Observation Mission Sierra Leone 2007

### Background to EU Election Observation

The main objectives of election observation are:

- To undertake a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process
- To enhance public confidence in the electoral process
- To deter fraud
- To strengthen respect for human rights
- To contribute to sustaining peace and preventing conflict

The European Union deploys Election Observation Missions (EU EOMs) around the world to provide support for the development of democratic institutions and practice, and to assist partner countries in their objective to hold elections in line with international and regional standards.

EU EOMs use an established methodology for observing elections. EU EOMs do not interfere in the electoral process.

All EU election observers are bound by a strict code of conduct that guarantees their neutrality and impartiality. The EU EOM will collect and verify information concerning the electoral process, which will be used to prepare a preliminary statement of findings and conclusions issued within 48 hours of election day. A final report containing detailed recommendations for the future is issued around two months after the end of the electoral process.

EU EOMs are funded under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights.

EU EOMs assess an electoral process in accordance with international and regional standards related to democratic elections, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In doing so the EU EOMs employ the following assessment criteria:

- the degree of impartiality shown by the election administration
- the degree of freedom of political parties to assemble and express their views
- the universal franchise afforded to voters
- the fairness of access to State resources during the elections
- the degree of access for political parties and candidates to the media
- any other issues that concern the democratic nature of the election (e.g. campaign violence, rule of law, legal framework)
- the conduct of polling and counting

### Mandate of the EU EOM to Sierra Leone

The EU was invited to establish an EOM for the 11 August elections in Sierra Leone by the National Electoral Commission. The mandate of the EU EOM is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process in accordance with international and regional standards for genuine democratic elections. The EU EOM operates independently from the European Commission Delegation to Sierra Leone and EU member states.

The EU EOM will observe the entire election process including:

- 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; and
- the environment in which the election is being conducted.

### Composition of the EU EOM Sierra Leone

The EU EOM is headed by a Chief Observer, Marie Anne Isler Béguin MEP (France). The Mission Core Team consists of seven experts who were deployed on 5 July.

The EU EOM's Core Team analyses key political, electoral and legal issues and are supported by logistics and security experts. On election day the mission will be represented by more than 70 observers to observe voting and counting.

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