



**European Union  
Election Observation Mission  
Sierra Leone 2007**

**European Union Launches Election Observation Mission for the Forthcoming  
Presidential and Legislative Elections in Sierra Leone**

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Freetown, July 11 2007: The European Union is deploying an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to observe the forthcoming presidential and legislative elections in Sierra Leone scheduled to take place on August 11. The Head of the EU EOM is Ms. Marie Anne Isler Béguin, Member of the European Parliament. The mission was established and deployed on July 5 and comprises a Core Team of seven experts and teams of Long Term and Short Term Observers. The 28 Long Term Observers will shortly be deployed throughout the country to observe key aspects of the election process. A further deployment of 42 Short Term Observers will join the Core Team and the Long Term Observers for the period immediately prior to, and including, polling day to observe the voting and counting process.

The mission's general mandate is to assess elections against international and regional standards for democratic elections. The EU EOM will work independently to fulfill its mandate to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process and to offer an impartial, balanced and informed analysis of the elections. EU observers will be deployed across Sierra Leone. This observation work is an important component of the European Union's policy of promoting human rights and democratization throughout the world.

The EU EOM will observe the electoral process up to election day, election day itself and during the post election period. It will remain in Sierra Leone until the completion of the electoral process. Shortly after election day, the EU EOM will issue a preliminary statement of its initial finding at a press conference in Freetown. A more comprehensive report will be published subsequently.

As head of the EU EOM, Marie Anne Isler Béguin will meet government and electoral officials, candidates and representatives of political parties, heads of diplomatic delegations and representatives of international and non-governmental organisations throughout the country. On arrival Marie Anne Isler Béguin commented "elections are a fundamental part of the social and political life of a democratic country. It is important that citizens can exercise their right to vote freely and candidates are able to campaign in an environment where there is a level playing field. These elections represent an opportunity to sustain peace and further strengthen the democratic process in Sierra Leone."

The EU EOM will operate in accordance with the "Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation", adopted by a number of international bodies involved in election observation in October 2005 at the United Nations in New York.

EU EOM Sierra Leone 2007  
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