



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

First group of EU Long Term Election Observers are deployed throughout Sierra Leone

Date: 18 July 2007
For immediate release

Freetown, 19 July: Twenty eight European Union long term election observers are being deployed throughout the country today. The observers arrived in Freetown, Sierra Leone on 16 July to observe the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled to take place on 11 August.

After two days of extensive briefing in Freetown teams of observers are being deployed to their areas of responsibility today (19 July). The 14 teams of observers will be based in all of the districts including: Bo, Bombali, Bonthe, Kailahun, Kambia, Kenema, Koinadugu, Kono, Moyamba, Port Loko, Pujehun and Tonkolili. Two further teams are stationed in Freetown.

“The work of the long term observers in the field is incredibly important for the EU EOM as it enables the mission to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the election process throughout the country including preparations that are currently underway. We shall be observing all areas of the election process and our observers will remain in the field until after election day to observe the post election process as well” said Marie Anne Isler Béguin, the Chief Observer of the EU EOM.

Over the next few weeks the observers will meet with, among others, election officials, candidates and representatives of civil society, and will report their observations back to the core team in Freetown. A group of short term observers are due to arrive in country closer to election day. They will also receive an extensive briefing and then be deployed with their colleagues across the country. A delegation of Members of the European Parliament will also be joining the mission nearer election day in order to observe voting, counting, and the tabulation of results.

After election day, the EU Election Observation Mission will issue a statement of preliminary findings and conclusions. A final report will be issued at a later stage.

Photos for publication are available on the EU EOM website www.eueomsierraleone.org under the press releases section in the menu.

EU EOM Sierra Leone 2007
Contact: David Ward, Press Officer
Address: Hotel Bintumani, Block A, 3rd Floor
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Email: david.ward@eueomsierraleone.org
Tel: 076541566
www.eueomsierraleone.org