

Code of Conduct for EU Election Observers

All EU observers are bound by following EU code of conduct. This is in harmony with the code of conduct accompanying the *Declaration of Principals for International Observation*, to which EU observers should also adhere.

- Observers will respect the laws of the land. They enjoy no special immunities as international observers, unless the host country so provides.
- Observers will participate in all pre-election briefing with their supervising officers.
- Observers will be subject to the direction and management of the observer team leadership, carrying out their written terms of reference and covering the geographical schedules specified by team leaders.
- Observers should aware of the presence of other electoral observation group, and liaise with them under the direction of the EU EOM leadership.
- Observers will carry with them prescribed identification issued by the host government or election management body, and will identify themselves to any interested authority upon request.
- Observers will maintain strict impartiality in the conduct of their duties, and shall at no time express any bias or preference in relation to national authorities, parties, candidates, or reference to any issues in contention in the election process.
- Observers will not display or wear any partisan symbols, colours or banners.
- Observers will undertake their duties in an unobtrusive manner, and will not disrupt interface with the election process, polling day procedures, or the vote count.
- Observers may bring irregularities to the attention of the election officials, but will not give instructions or countermand decisions of the election officials.
- Observers will base all conclusions on well documented, factual, and verifiable evidence, and will keep a record of the polling stations and other relevant places that they visit.
- Observers will refrain from making any personal or premature comments about their observation to the media or any other interested persons, but should provide, through a designated liaison officer or spokesperson, general information about the nature of their activities as observers.
- Observers will participate in post-election de-briefings with their supervising officers and will contribute fully towards EU reports on the elections being observed.
- Observers must comply with all national laws and regulations. Where these limit freedom of assembly or movement about the country, they must note where such rules prevent them from carrying out their duties.
- At all times during the mission, including during private time away from work, each election observer should behave blamelessly, exercise sound judgment, and observe the highest level of personal discretion.

Code of Conduct Violations

In case of concern about possible code of conduct violations, the EU EOM chief observer shall conduct a fair inquiry into the matter, in consultation with the European Commission election teams. If a serious violation is found to have

occurred, the observer concerned may have their accreditation withdrawn and be dismissed from the EU EOM. The authority for such decisions rests with the chief observer and European Commission election teams.

Professional Working Environment

The code of conduct focuses on the election-related aspects of observers' conduct. Beyond the stipulations of the code of conduct, however, all EU observers are expected at all times to contribute to a professional working environment that is free from intimidation or harassment, including sexual harassment. Special care should be taken to ensure that national staff members are protected from harassment. EU EOMs will designate a focal point to whom staff members may bring any concerns in regard to the professional working environment.

EU observers should behave in a manner which respects citizens and officials of host country. In view of the need for EU EOMs to maintain the highest level of private and public conduct, EU observers should not patronize any establishment where victims of trafficking may be employed. Likewise, in accordance with the provisions of the code of conduct, which requires observers to 'behave blamelessly, exercise sound judgment, and observe the highest level of personal discretion, for example abuse of alcohol, use drugs, and use of prostitutes is prohibited.