



PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Guinea Bissau holds peaceful and orderly election, despite widespread problems with election material; high turnout signals determination to strengthen the legislative body

Bissau, 18 November 2008

The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) has been in Guinea-Bissau since 4 October 2008 by invitation of the National Election Commission (Comissão Nacional de Eleiçõe, CNE). The EU EOM is headed by Johan Van Hecke, Member of the European Parliament, and is composed of 51 observers from 15 EU member states. The observers were deployed to all nine regions of Guinea Bissau to assess the electoral process in accordance with international principles for democratic elections. On election day, 16 November 2008, the observers visited 262 polling stations in all 27 constituencies (círculos eleitorais) to observe voting and counting. The EU EOM is currently observing the results consolidation process and will remain in the country to follow post-election activities. A final report containing an overall assessment and recommendations will be issued within two months after the completion of the election process. The EU EOM is independent in its findings and conclusions, and adheres to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, commemorated at the United Nations, New York, in October 2005.

Preliminary Conclusions

- On election day, voters turned out in high numbers in a peaceful and orderly manner, and could freely exercise their franchise. Voting and counting were well administered at the polling station level but problems with lack of election material delayed voting in more than five percent of the polling stations observed by the EU EOM in at least six of the nine regions of the country.
- The presence of political party representatives during voting and counting in all polling stations visited contributed to enhance the transparency of the process, and offset the absence of domestic observers which is still not allowed by law. No complaints were filed by the parties or citizens during the different stages of the election.
- The electoral process was conducted within a satisfactory legal framework that guaranteed citizens and political organisations the capacity to enjoy their fundamental freedoms and broad political rights.

This statement is available in Portuguese and English but only the English version is official.

European Union Election Observation Mission

Hotel Azalai 24 de Setembro, Bissau GUINÉ-BISSAU

Tel: + (+245) (0) 3 22 44 84/5 Fax: + (+245) (0) 3 22 44 83

Website: www.eueombissau.org

- The legal framework provides for holding of democratic elections and respects fundamental rights for the conduction of polls in line with international principles. Civil and political freedoms, such as freedom of movement, of assembly, of association and the right to vote and to stand as a candidate are guaranteed by law and widely respected by the national stakeholders and parties.
- The CNE administered the electoral process in a professional, independent and impartial manner, despite serious financial, technical and operational shortcomings. Election preparations were generally carried out on time and according to the electoral calendar.
- The CNE performance was hindered by its lack of normative power to update electoral regulations and its financial dependency on governmental budgetary support. Provisions in the electoral code are not always in accordance with the Constitution, like the timeframe for holding parliamentary elections. Threats of strikes almost paralysed the electoral management body on three different occasions during the last two months.
- The new manual registration of voters was conducted during three weeks last July, instead of at the beginning of the year as mandated by the electoral law. No objections were made during the registration process and the political parties and stakeholders expressed general satisfaction. The total of 593,557 voters for a population estimated at 1.4 million is acceptable but is under the more than 50 percent average for developing countries. However, the quality of the registry was compromised by a short registration period, the under representation of young voters and the more than 1,500 omissions of voters in the copy of the registry received by the CNE.
- The three-week electoral campaign was generally held in a peaceful and orderly manner. Political parties and candidates were free to hold rallies and meetings without facing intimidation or limitations to their freedom of speech and expression. Voters were free to attend political rallies without being harassed or limited in their movements. However, the EU EOM regrets and deplors the use of inappropriate and defamatory language during the final days of campaign, tainted by an exchange of accusations and smearing in a clear violation of the Codes of Conduct signed by the political parties in Bissau and Banjul, Gambia. Gifting, or vote buying, was also a common practice all across the country as well as the open participation of public officials in the campaign in favor of a political party.
- The political parties' incapacity to effectively deploy delegates in all regions and the country's high illiteracy levels impacted negatively on the parties' ability to efficiently scrutinise the poll. The situation is worsened by the legal impediment to civil society participation in domestic observation.
- Women participated as candidates in the election in modest numbers, despite some parties' commitment to establish female quotas and to expand the presence of women in their lists. Also, women were generally not well positioned in the lists making their chances of winning a seat even more remote. There was also an inadequate female representation in all executive positions within the national and regional election commissions. In the CNE plenary, which includes its executive secretariat and representatives of 21 parties, female participation is almost nonexistent.
- The public and private media covered the electoral process in a neutral tone. Freedom of the press was fully respected. However, the extreme financial and technical difficulties faced especially by the state owned media impacted negatively on its

ability to offer a full coverage of the campaign and delayed the launch of free airtime programming for the political parties. The private media maintained their readers constantly aware of the electoral process, with different levels of balance but with the same neutral tone of their public counterparts. Two private newspapers, however, violated the electoral law by publishing opinion polls.

- Despite the efforts by the CNE, the media, civil society, domestic and international institutions, the effectiveness of the civic education campaign to increase public awareness of voting rights and election procedures was hampered by a late start and financial constraints.

Preliminary Findings

BACKGROUND

The legislative elections on 16 November 2008 were the fourth held in Guinea Bissau since a semi-presidential multi-party system was established in the country in 1994. The transition from the one-party system instituted after independence from Portugal in 1974 did not, however, bring the expected political stability. Military coups and dissolutions of the National Popular Assembly (ANP) fed recurrent political crises perpetuating instability in the political and administrative structures of the country. This situation was worsened by the recent surge of criminal networks.

The mandate of the last legislature expired on April 2008 and, constitutionally, elections should have been held by that time to renew its 102 members. However, the government failed to secure the financial resources for the election—later fully covered by international contributions—before the end of the legislature. President João Bernardo “Nino” Vieira called the election for 16 November 2008 after the members of the ANP extended their own mandate. The “Exceptional Constitutional Transitional Law,” extending the mandates until the publication of the next legislative election results, was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Justice (STJ). President Vieira then dissolved the Assembly, which is now functioning through its Permanent Commission.

The 16 November election is of particular importance to the efforts to strengthen the legislative body. Always seen as a weak, rubber stamp institution, the ANP main parties—the historic African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the Party for Social Renovation (PRS) and the Social Democrat United Party (PUSD)—signed in 2007 a pact for national stability that, for the first time in the history of the country, allowed for promotion and passage a vote of no-confidence in the government. The prime minister, Aristides Gomes, a close ally of president Vieira, was replaced by Martinho N’Dafa Cabi, who turned the government to Carlos Correia after the assembly was dissolved by president Vieira in August 2008.

The change of prime ministers was also accompanied by a change in the political parties’ structure of influence with the creation of the Republican Party for Independence and Development (PRID) by ex-supporters of PAIGC. Although president Vieira has not committed himself during the electoral process to either the PAIGC or PRID, political analysts and the media believe that he is behind the new party, one of 21 contesting the election. PAIGC, PRID and PRS are now the most influential political organisations. PAIGC, led by Carlos Gomes Jr. (also known as Cadogo), a former close ally of the president and now

his main adversary, expected to win an absolute majority in the national assembly and to see its leader as the new prime minister.

During all this period, the military, who have traditionally exercised power beyond their constitutional mandate, have been outside the electoral processes and committed to guarantee a peaceful environment.

This is the second electoral process being observed by the European Union in Guinea Bissau, after the presidential election in 2005.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legal framework in Guinea Bissau generally provides for holding of democratic elections although improvements can be introduced for future elections. Governed by the Constitution of 1984 (last amended in 1996) along with a set of four main electoral laws,¹ the legal framework respects fundamental rights that can provide for the conduct of democratic polls in line with international principles for democratic elections. Civil and political freedoms, such as freedom of movement, of assembly, of association and the right to vote and to stand as a candidate are guaranteed by law and widely respected by the national stakeholders and parties. Access to participation in all aspects of public life, as well as equal rights and opportunities for women and men in regard to elections, is broadly reflected in the legal framework.

The electoral system of proportional representation elects 102 parliamentary seats from multi-member constituencies; 100 seats are elected in the national territory and an additional two in the Diaspora, both in Europe and Africa. The Diaspora was disenfranchised as no provisions were made for out-of-country voting. While the legislative framework generally respects fundamental rights, it lacks provisions for domestic observation leaving it up to political parties to monitor the electoral process. The political parties' incapacity to effectively deploy delegates and the country's high illiteracy levels impacts negatively on the parties' ability to efficiently scrutinise the poll.

Further shortcomings of the legal framework that should be addressed include the CNE's lack of normative power regarding the updating of electoral regulations and its financial dependency on governmental budgetary support. Additionally, provisions in the electoral code are not always in accordance with the Constitution, like the timeframe for holding parliamentary elections.

INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Democratic benchmarks for good electoral practice mainly revolve around principles as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Article 25 of the International Covenant for Civil and Political rights (ICCPR) of 1966: *periodic elections, universal and equal suffrage; right to stand for public office; right to vote; genuine elections allowing for the free expression of the will of the people*. Guinea Bissau has signed the ICCPR and is a party to the UDHR, the African Charter of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

¹ Law on Voter Registration, Law on the Election of the President and the National Popular Assembly, Law on the National Election Commission and Law on International Election Observation.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The National Election Commission, supported by nine Regional Election Commissions, administered the electoral process in a professional, independent and impartial manner, despite serious financial, technical and operational shortcomings inherent to the structural weaknesses of the CNE.

Technical and operational preparations were generally carried out on time according to the electoral calendar. The CNE trained 10,648 election officials all over the country, both for polling and counting activities in the 2,662 polling stations. In addition, more than 2,600 civil security agents were trained and deployed to assist in providing a peaceful voting atmosphere. A large civic education campaign, involving the CNE, the media, civil society and international organisations helped increase public awareness of voting rights and election procedures while specially targeting women and first time voters. In spite of these efforts, the effectiveness of the civic education campaign was hampered by a late start and financial constraints. Some deficiencies, as identified in the EU EOM 2005 report, such as the timely release of international and governmental funds in support to the electoral administration, saw little improvement.

Issues such as the secrecy of the ballot, polling absenteeism, vote buying, first time and women voters found great receptivity in messages transmitted through the radio, TV, printed media and local dissemination via non-governmental organisations working close to rural populations. In line with the EU EOM 2005 recommendations, civic education campaigns included discussion reflecting the concern regarding ethnic voting. The conduct of a peaceful and nonviolent campaign and the acceptance of election results as a sign of democratic maturity were also repeated subjects throughout the campaigns.

VOTER REGISTRATION

A total of 593,557 citizens² were registered as voters in July 2008 during a 21 day period. Registration, conducted manually, was extended for three additional days in response to a lukewarm start of the process³. Moreover, the late start of the CNE civic education campaign, when the registration process was already ongoing, added to the general feeling of discontent with the social situation in the country, may have dissuaded citizens to register.⁴ For a population estimated at 1, 4 million inhabitants, the registration of 42 percent as voters may be acceptable, even though it is under the more than 50 percent average commonly used as a threshold for other developing countries. The registration process was accepted by all political parties involved in the activity. Yearly updates of the registry and a permanent voter registry should be the norm, instead of new registration processes for each election. Also, the CNE and CREs should be responsible for all the stages and entire process of registration.

² An increase of 53,402 voters compared to the presidential election of 2005.

³ Voter eligibility derives from citizenship and age (18 years of age). Large sectors of the population do not hold an identity card or birth certificate. The law allows for a citizen to be registered if two witnesses confirm their identity, a measure that permits overcoming identification shortcomings but could also be open to underage registration.

⁴ Out of a total of 593,557 registered voters for the legislative poll a scarce 3.8 percent are in the 18 to 28 age group. Potential first time voter apathy, lack of interest and knowledge of political rights could explain the almost inexistence of young electors in the register (39% between age group 29 to 38, age group 39-48 with 23%, age group 49-58 with 15,6%, age group 59-68 with 9,8%, age group 69-78 with 5,5%, age group 79-88 with 2,2%).

The voter registration process falls under the responsibility of the government and the Ministry for Internal Administration. Within the Ministry it is up to the Secretariat for Territorial Administration and its Technical Cabinet for Electoral Support (GTAPE in its Portuguese acronym) to organise and implement the voter registration process. The National Institute for Statistics and Census (INEC) conducted the field registration and prepared a ready-to-use digital copy which was delivered to GTAPE and the National Election Commission. However, the digital copy revealed registration omissions that were opportunely corrected by the CNE after consultations with the government agency. The omissions were subsequently clarified to the political party representatives at the CNE plenary. No pertinent objections were made to the registration process and the political parties and stakeholders expressed general satisfaction. The CNE shared digital copies of the voter register with all 21 contesting parties and coalitions in an effort to increase the transparency of the process.

PARTY AND CANDIDATES LISTS' REGISTRATION

A total of 19 parties and two coalitions were accepted by the Supreme Court of Justice (STJ in its Portuguese acronym). Four candidates' lists were rejected on grounds of absence of a party structure, lack of internal party elections and leadership disputes. Several candidates were disqualified from running for not satisfying legal registration requirements such as presenting a valid identity card, voter card or a signed registration declaration. The final party and candidates' list was made public by the STJ on 3 October.

Legal requirements for candidate lists' registration are reasonable by international good practices. It seemed, however, that a few parties, specially the smaller ones, were poorly organised in fulfilling identification requirements on time to meet the registration deadline. Candidate registration requirements include the presentation of a valid identity card, a document only available in Bissau, and thus not easily accessible to citizens living outside of the capital.

The framework for candidate registration is clearly established by law, providing parties and candidates the opportunity to rectify technical errors, submit missing or incomplete documentation and to challenge their disqualification. However, the Guinean Movement for Democracy (MDG) formally complained to the EU EOM against what it considered discrimination by the STJ in the qualification of its candidates and lack of response for its requests for revision. The STJ informed the mission that all parties had the opportunity to rectify their lists and documents, and those cases not acted upon were due to non-observance of deadlines and closed.

CAMPAIGN ENVIRONMENT

The three-week election campaign started on 25 October and was conducted mostly in a peaceful and orderly way, despite the intensification and rising tone of the speeches during its last stage. Political parties and candidates were free to hold rallies and meetings without facing intimidation or limitations to their freedom of speech and expression. Voters were also free to attend political rallies free of harassment and in a peaceful way. The EU EOM has not observed or received reports of major incidents involving the activities of the electoral campaign, besides the destruction of campaign materials and minor clashes among supporters of different parties. Political parties have not received financial support from the government, as stipulated in the electoral law,⁵ creating an imbalance in the playing field in detriment of

⁵ The law limits the support to "within the state possibilities."

the smaller parties unable to match the organisational capacity and financial power of the most influential parties.

With election day drawing near, the main political parties embarked on an exchange of accusations and smearing. Candidates of the main political parties violated two Codes of Conduct, one signed in Bissau and other in Banjul, Gambia, by using inappropriate and inflammatory language during rallies, public speeches and in media interviews. Involvement in drug trafficking became the main issue of the campaign and one difficult to assess. Since the EU EOM arrival in the country early in October, political leaders and civil society representatives expressed fears of drug money financing of electoral campaigns and even participation of candidates directly involved with trafficking.

Gifting, or vote buying, was a commonly observed practice across the country. The major parties were more visible in such practices. At the opening of a new PAIGC party headquarters in Bula (Cacheu), the party's top candidate gave the local health clinic a generator and an ambulance. In Bubaque (Bijagós), two important *régulos* (traditional chiefs) have switched their allegiance from PAIGC to PRID, reportedly in return for a motorcycle and zinc roofing which they have already received.

The replacement of public officials with PAIGC party faithfuls caused concern for some parties. No official explanation was given for these substitutions.⁶ According to a former Governor of Quinara region (PUSD), who was also substituted in September, it was of no surprise for any public official not backing PAIGC that s/he would be replaced before the elections. Parties expressed concern that sector administrators and governors might use state resources for campaigning activities and could influence the less educated population due to their respected position in public service. In fact, EU EOM observers reported a candidate in Bijagos using a boat of the Ministry of Fisheries.

EU EOM observers also reported that public officials were involved in political campaign activities: in the archipelago of Bijagós, the governor and sector administrators actively supported the PAIGC campaign; in Tombalí, both traditional and institutional authorities are highly politicised and siding with one party, and the governor drives around in a car showing PAIGC posters and flags, while wearing a t-shirt and cap encouraging the PAIGC vote; the governor of Cacheu, a former PAIGC member, has changed his support to PRID.

MEDIA ENVIRONMENT

The public and private media covered the electoral process in an environment of freedom and in a neutral tone. Civic and voter education spots produced by the CNE were broadcast and published by the media, contributing to a better understanding of the electoral process by the population. In a welcome initiative, community radio stations in the regions widely broadcast information on the location of polling stations.

Coverage of political party activities remained a huge challenge for the media during the entire campaign period. Their critical financial situation and absolute lack of resources severely limited the capacity of both public and private media to properly cover the electoral campaign. However, after receiving support from external financial contributions, the media managed to keep voters informed about the electoral process and, in general, offered a fair

⁶ The replacements might be a consequence of the withdrawal of the PRS from the government after the national stability pact was broken up.

coverage of the campaign. Nevertheless, information provided to voters was not broad enough to cover all political options. This was in part a consequence of the modest or non-existent information by the small parties on their agendas and platforms.

According to EU EOM media monitoring results⁷ the public media *Nô Pintcha* made a balanced coverage of the campaign, allocating proportional space to 17 of the 21 political parties and coalitions. State-owned *Rádio Difusão Nacional* (RDN) also managed to cover campaign activities of 17 parties, although showing bias in favor of PAIGC and PRS, who received 25 and 22 percent, respectively, of the total airtime of its news programs. The public TV *Televisão da Guiné-Bissau* (TGB) was unable to fully cover the campaign and covered only the last 10 days of the campaign period. It allocated airtime to 12 political parties but gave 40 percent of the total time to PAIGC. The tone of coverage of the free public media was always neutral.

The private media showed different levels of balance among its outlets with the most influential parties like PAIGC, PRS and PRID receiving more space and airtime. The tone of the coverage was neutral.

Although airing of programmes started with a 24-hours delay, public RDN and TGB complied with the Electoral Law by broadcasting almost daily free airtime programs⁸ dedicated to the political parties (*Tempo de Antena*). Only seven parties on RDN⁹ and 15 on TGB made use of the free airtime, and not always on a daily basis. Political debates among parties' candidates were also aired on RDN, *Rádio Pindjiguiti* and *Rádio Bombolom* from 3 to 11 November. However, the absence of representatives of six parties weakened the effectiveness of the initiative and prevented voters to gather information on political proposals of those organisations.

The privately owned weekly newspapers *Gazeta de Notícias* and *Diário de Bissau* violated Article 33 of the Electoral Law by publishing on 11 and 12 November an opinion poll of electoral results. The community radio stations *Rádio Papagaio* (Buba) and *Rádio Bijagos* (Bubaque) violated Article 45 of the Electoral Law by broadcasting political party propaganda. Also, the broadcast on 14 November by RDN of a PAIGC campaign song for almost one hour was highly improper.

GENDER

The law does not include provisions for reserved seats for women to be elected to parliament. Even if political parties, in general, expressed willingness to include more women in their legislative candidate lists, most parties presented a modest number of women, and generally not in prominent positions. The candidates' lists for the historical PAIGC party included approximately 17 percent female participation. For the AD coalition 46 percent, UNDP 38 percent, UPG 33 percent, PUSD, PDS, AFP, PPD, MDG, PP, PRN, LIPE and PADEC between 18 to 25 percent, PRID, PT and CD 14 percent and 11 percent for the PRS.

⁷ From 25 October to 14 November the EU EOM monitored the following media: *RDN*, *Rádio Pindjiguiti*, *Rádio Bombolom*, *TGB*, *Nô Pintcha*, *Gazeta de Notícias*, *Diário de Bissau* and *Kansaré*.

⁸ On 12 November, TGB did not broadcast *Tempos de Antena*.

⁹ The reason for not many parties taking advantage of the free airtime was the fact that RDN asked 70,000 francs CFA to tape *Tempos de Antena* on the public radio. Although strongly criticized by the political parties such charges are, nevertheless, contemplated in Article 38.4 of the Electoral Law.

Women comprise near 53 percent of the total registered electorate; the adult female illiteracy rate is above 70 percent. Having less access to education and being more likely to live in poverty than men, women are undoubtedly politically disadvantaged when it comes to being included in party lists and in political decision making structures. Similarly, there is a deficient female representation in all executive positions within the national and regional election commissions. Within the CNE plenary, the main deliberative election organ that includes 21 party representatives, female participation is almost nonexistent.

Commendable efforts were made, however, in the attempt to increase women and youth political participation and awareness. The EU EOM praises the creation of the Women's Political Platform (*Plataforma Política das Mulheres*) with support of the Network for Women of the Parliamentary Forum of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, UNDP, UNOGBIS and civil society. The Platform constitutes another channel for the defense of women's rights and the promotion of female participation in the political life of the country.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society has had an intense and active role in the electoral process, despite its financial and legal limitations to follow it properly. The election law on observation only provides for international observers and political party and coalition delegates to observe the election process. Despite three restrictions on domestic observation, civil society organisations have developed a positive and pro-active attitude towards supporting actions to reduce instances of political violence during the election period. Also, different groups organised informal monitoring teams in support of the election administration by voluntarily offering to pass on information regarding potential shortcomings involving distribution of materials or instances of tension or disturbances during election day. Civil society groups, in cooperation with local authorities and the CNE, organised civic education programmes, which undoubtedly facilitated the dissemination of a message of tranquillity, order and peace regarding the campaign period, the poll and the post-electoral period.

VOTING

The EU EOM observed 262 polling stations in the urban and rural zones of all nine regions of the country. EU EOM observers evaluated the process as good or satisfactory¹⁰ in 98 percent of observed polling stations. Voting activities started at 07:00 hours and were conducted in a calm, orderly manner, without tensions, and with a high voter turnout for a legislative election, estimated at between 60 and 70 per cent in the polling stations visited by EU EOM observers. The Polling stations generally opened on time but the lack of election material delayed the start of voting in more than five percent of polling stations observed. Problems with election material (lack of reporting sheets, or *actas*, ballot boxes seals, punchers, voting booths and stationery) were reported in at least six of the nine regions: Oio, Biombo, Cacheu, Bijagós, Quinara and Bissau. In Bissorã, Oio, voting in 10 polling stations had to be postponed for the next day for lack of materials. Also, there was confusion in Bijagós, where voters' lists were sent to the wrong polling stations and to different islands.

Political parties' delegates were present in all polling stations and sometimes over-represented. There were no complaints lodged in the polling stations visited. Secrecy of the vote was respected in all polling stations observed, with few exceptions due to the positioning of

¹⁰ Ratings were poor, satisfactory and good.

the booth. Polling staff generally followed voting procedures (checking for inked fingers, entry of voters' numbers, punching of voters' cards, inking of fingers) but in almost half of the polling stations observed the ballot boxes were not properly sealed. Security in the polling stations was lax since in more than 25 percent of the *assembleias de voto* observed there were no civil security agents. However, there were no incidents or cases of intimidation observed or reported to the EU EOM.

Women, who comprise more than half of the electorate (53 percent), had a strong participation in voting and in the polling stations; more than 40 percent of the members of the staff of the polling stations visited by the EU EOM were women, although few were presiding the *assembleia de voto*.

COUNTING

Polling stations closed at 17:00 hours in the same quiet and orderly atmosphere observed during the day, and voters could freely exercise their franchise. EU EOM observers rated the closing and counting procedures as satisfactory or good in 95 percent of the polling stations visited. In 90 percent of the cases the number of ballots matched with the total number of voters checked in the registry and/or entered in the manual voters' list. Although counting was carried out according to established procedures in 90 percent of the polling stations observed, there were minor inconsistencies in the closing procedures in 35 percent of the *assembleias de voto* visited: spoiled or contested ballots were not put in the envelopes, manual voters' lists were not closed and signed by the polling staff and party delegates, number of voters checked in the registry did not match number on the manual voters' list, and sensitive materials were not properly packaged for transport to the Regional Election Commissions (CREs).

Party delegates were present in all polling stations contributing to a higher transparency of the process. Delegates signed the tallying sheets, or *Actas de Apuramento*, in 90 percent of the polling stations observed by the EU EOM. In 95 percent of the cases they also received a copy of the *Acta Síntese*, which was also posted at the premises of the polling station. There were no complaints formally filed during the closing and counting process. Other international observers were present in only 5 percent of the polling stations visited.

The EU EOM will observe the consolidation of results at CRE and CNE levels as well as the official announcement of the results.

The EU EOM wishes to express its appreciation to the National Election Commission of Guinea Bissau and the Guinean authorities for their cooperation and assistance during the course of the observation. The mission is also grateful to the International Organization for Migration and the Delegation of the European Commission in Guinea Bissau for their support.

For further information, please contact:

Javier Gutiérrez, Media Analyst and Press Officer, 245 5804614