



**European Union
Election Observation Mission
Republic of Guinea-Bissau
Early Presidential Elections**

The European Union has deployed an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau for the early presidential elections on 28 June 2009

Who are the people working for the EU EOM ?

The EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) is headed by the Chief Observer, Johan Van Hecke, who is a Belgium Member of the European Parliament (MEP).

A core team of four election experts from different EU member states arrived in Bissau on 6 June to set up and co-ordinate the mission. The core team analyses political, electoral and legal issues and is supported by logistical and security experts.



Chief Observer
Johan Van Hecke

The mission consists of 21 observers from 14 different EU member states. Six long-term observers have been working in regions across Guinea-Bissau since the beginning of June. They observe the electoral process in their area and report back to the core team in Bissau.

Ten short-term observers have joined the mission shortly before the elections. On election day they have observed voting and counting in polling stations throughout the country.

The EU EOM will stay in Guinea-Bissau for several weeks after election day.

What is the mandate of the EU EOM?

The EU was invited to set up an EOM for the elections in Guinea-Bissau by the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the Electoral Commission of Guinea-Bissau.

The mission's mandate is to observe all aspects of the electoral process and assess the extent to which the election complies with international and regional standards for elections, as well as with domestic law.

The EU EOM is independent from the European Commission Delegation to Guinea-Bissau and EU member states.

The EU EOM will observe the 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

The EU EOM will publish its findings after the election.

EU EOM uses the following assessment criteria during its observation of an electoral process:

- the degree of impartiality shown by the election administration
- the degree of freedom of political parties and candidates to assemble and express their views
- the fairness of access to state resources during the election
- the universal franchise afforded to voters
- the degree of access for political parties and candidates to the media, in particular the state media
- any other issue which concerns the democratic nature of the election (e.g. campaign violence; rule of law; legal framework)
- the conduct of polling and counting of votes

Background to EU Election Observation

The EU has an established methodology for observing elections. Observers cannot interfere in the electoral process and have no authority to change or correct any shortcomings. All EU election observers are bound by a strict code of conduct that guarantees their neutrality and impartiality.

The EU EOM is funded under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

The main objectives of election observation are:

- to enhance public confidence in the electoral process
- to deter fraud
- to strengthen respect for human rights and the rule of law
- to contribute to resolution of conflict

How do I contact the EU EOM?

The EU EOM offices are at:
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