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PRESS RELEASE

Addis Ababa, 12 May 2010

60 EU EOM Short Term Observers arrive in Ethiopia

A group of 60 European Union Short Term Observers (STOs) will arrive in Ethiopia on Saturday, 15 May 2010, to join 90 Long Term Observers (LTOs) already deployed to all regions of the country. The STOs will stay in Addis Ababa for two days and receive a series of briefings on various aspects of the electoral process.

The STOs, just like their long term observer colleagues, will have contacts with local electoral officials, candidates, party representatives, civil society organizations and voters. They will observe the last days of campaigning, claims, complaints and the election preparations. On election day, 23 May 2010, both the LTOs and STOs will observe all phases of the election, from the opening of polling stations to voting, closing and counting.

All 75 two-member observer teams will observe the tabulation of results at constituency and federal level, as well as the announcement of results.

All together around 170 European Union observers from 29 countries – including Core Team members and other accredited officers of the mission - will follow procedures on election day and the days after. The observers' findings will be part of the overall evaluation and assessment of the process by the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM).

The deployment of the STOs will involve travel by car and of some teams by air. Teams who will travel by car will leave from the parking lot located at the back of the Hilton Hotel on Monday, May 17, 2010.

The EU EOM will inform the media later on the exact time of their departure to the field.

There will also be an opportunity to interview the Chief Observer of the EU EOM, Thijs Berman, on May 17, after the departure of the STOs.

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