



**European Union
Election Observation Mission to Ethiopia 2010
House of Peoples' Representatives and State Council Elections**



For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

Addis Ababa, 14 May 2010

EU EOM Chief Observer returns to Ethiopia

The Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM), Thijs Berman, will return to Ethiopia from Europe on Monday, May 17, 2010. Berman, a Dutch Member of the European Parliament (MEP) is heading a 170-member Election Observation Mission that arrived in Ethiopia on April 14.

“We hope that the presence of EU observers will contribute to the integrity and credibility of the election process” – said the Chief Observer, before leaving Europe. “We are neutral, independent and impartial in our conduct and findings, and we do not interfere in the process. Our job is to observe all procedures, and based on our established methodology and experience, I am confident we will succeed in that”.

The Chief Observer will hold meetings with political party representatives, candidates, government and election officials, civil society representatives and the media. He will also travel to some regions of the country to meet with interlocutors at constituency level.

“I look forward to meet our observers in the field. The observers’ findings will enable the EU EOM to provide an independent and objective countrywide assessment of the election process in accordance with international principles for democratic elections” - said the Chief Observer.

The EU EOM is the largest international observation mission deployed to Ethiopia to assess the House of Peoples’ Representatives and State Council elections. The mission now includes a core team of electoral experts, 90 Long Term Observers (LTOs) and 60 Short Term Observers (STOs).

All EU observers must abide by a Code of Conduct which requires them to maintain strict neutrality in the course of their work, and to not interfere in the election process. The EU EOM adheres to the “Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation” commemorated at the United Nations in October 2005.

The EU Election Observation Mission will issue a preliminary statement of its findings at a press conference in Addis Ababa on 25 May. A final report will be issued within two months of the completion of the entire election process.

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