



For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

Addis Ababa, 23 April 2010

A group of 90 European Union Long Term Observers (LTOs) will arrive to Ethiopia on Saturday, 24 April 2010. The observers will stay in Addis Ababa for 3 days to undergo a series of briefings on various aspects of the electoral process, after which they will be deployed to all regions of the country.

The activities to be carried out by the LTOs before election day include contacts with local electoral officials, candidates, party representatives, civil society organizations and voters. They will also follow the campaigns, claims and complaints and the election preparations. On election day, on 23 May 2010, they will observe all phases of the election, from the opening of polling stations to voting, closing and counting. Their findings will be part of the overall evaluation and assessment of the process by the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM).

The LTOs will be reinforced by 60 Short Term Observers (STOs) who are expected to arrive to Ethiopia one week before election day. Both the LTOs and STOs will observe the tabulation of results at constituency and federal level, as well as the announcement of results.

The deployment of the LTOs - in teams of two observers - will involve travel by air and by car. Teams who will travel by car will leave from the parking lot located at the back of the Hilton Hotel.

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

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