



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

The European Union has deployed an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Ethiopia to observe the House of Peoples' Representatives and State Council Elections on 23 May 2010.
The EU EOM is independent, impartial and neutral in its findings.

Mandate of the EU Election Observation Mission

The EU was invited to establish an EOM for the upcoming elections by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

The mission's mandate is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process and to observe the extent to which the election complies with international standards for elections, as well as domestic law.

The EU EOM is independent from the Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia, the European Commission and EU member states.

The EU EOM's assessment is based on an established methodology which it applies in all election observation missions around the world. The EU has sent over 70 EOMs to 50 countries since 2000.

The EU EOM does not interfere in the electoral process while observing and assessing:

- 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
- the complaints and appeal process
- the environment in which the election is conducted

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

The EU EOM will publish its preliminary findings shortly after the election. After the completion of the election process a comprehensive Final Report will be issued including recommendations for future elections.

Composition of the EU EOM

The EU EOM is headed by Chief Observer Thijs Berman, a Dutch member of the European Socialist Party in the European Parliament.

His biography includes:

- Chief Observer of the EU EOM to Afghanistan in 2009
- Member of the European Parliament (2004-2010)
- Chairman of the EP delegation for relations with Afghanistan
- Member of the EP's Committee on Development
- Substitute for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
- Correspondent for various Dutch media in Paris and Moscow (1987-2003)



Chief Observer Thijs Berman

The Mission consists of 10 core team members (analysts), 90 long-term observers (LTOs) and more than 60 short-term observers (STOs). Five liaison officers have been deployed to support the activities of observers in the field.

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 Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

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

- the degree of freedom of political parties and candidates to assemble and express their views;
- the degree of impartiality shown by the election administration;
- 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;
- conduct of polling and counting of votes;
- any other issue which concerns the democratic nature of the election (e.g. campaign violence; rule of law; legal framework)

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