

European Union Election Observation



European Commission
DG for External Relations & DG Europe Aid
Election Team

EU Election Observation

- Since 2000 Communication on Election Assistance & Observation, more than 78 EOMs deployed to Africa, Asia, Central & South America
- In 2009, EOMs deployed to El Salvador, Ecuador, Bolivia (2), Malawi, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Lebanon and Afghanistan
- “Expert Missions” were namely deployed to the Maldives, Côte d’Ivoire, South Africa, Aceh, Niger, Iraq, Honduras

Why EU is involved in election observation ?

- EU is based on the principle of democracy & rule of law: Charter of Fundamental Rights & Treaty on European Union
- EC partnership & co-operation agreements (e.g. Cotonou) have strong emphasis on HR & democracy
- Observation funded under European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), approved by European Parliament

EU Methodology

Consistent, comprehensive
& impartial

- **2000 Communication** – based on :
 - (i) strategic approach to programming, (ii) coherence with human rights and democracy initiatives (iii) standard methodology involving long term, comprehensive observation, and (iv) independent assessment

1. Consistent:

- Based on the 2000 Communication on Election Assistance and Observation and in line with the *Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation*
- Assessment of an electoral process in accordance with international & regional standards related to democratic elections
- Observers are obliged to adhere to code of conduct for EU Election Observers

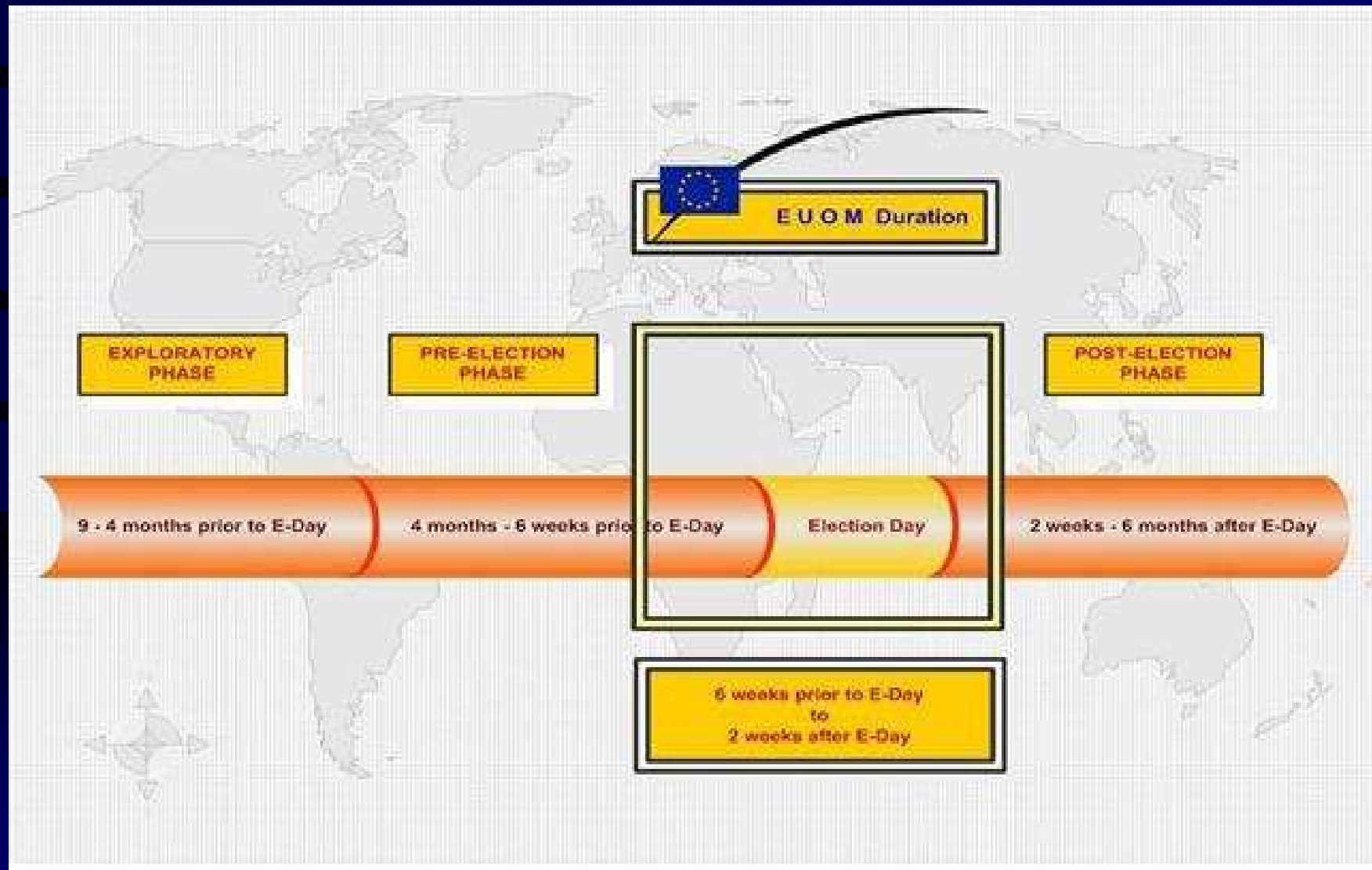
2. Comprehensive:

- **Observation of all aspect of the electoral process, including:**
 - political context
 - legislative framework & its implementation
 - work of election administration
 - Voter registration
 - Candidate and parties registration
 - campaign activities
 - media coverage
 - role of State institutions and civil society
 - voting, counting & tabulation of results
 - complaints & appeals
- **Long term presence in the country (around 8 weeks)**

3. Impartial

- EU EOMs are independent in their findings & provide an impartial assessment of the electoral process
- Cooperation with EU institutions but distinct mandate
- Cooperation with other observation missions but conclusion based on its own findings
- Non interference in the electoral process

Election observation timeline



Steps for deploying EOM

- **Identification:** List of priority countries
- **Official invitation** to observe
- **ExM recommendations**
- **Decision** made by Commissioner for External Relations
- **Preparation & implementation**
- **MoUs** signed with host country

Programming Identification

- Election calendar
- Consultations with Council & European Parliament
- List of priority countries : 2 categories (“priority” and “to be followed” countries)
- Deployment of Exploratory Mission (ExM)

Exploratory Mission

3 main criteria on which assessment is based:

Useful?

Feasible?

Advisable?

Minimum conditions required:

- suffrage is generally universal
- political parties & individual candidates are able to take part to elections
- freedom of expression & movement
- reasonable access to the media for all

Reporting on ExM findings

- Note to High Representative drafted by DG RELEX to recommend or not deployment of EU EOM
- ExM final report = EU internal document which provide an assessment of:
 - Political situation
 - Legal framework
 - Electoral preparations
 - Logistics & security conditions for an EU EOM
 - Indicative budget of an EU EOM
- Summary of report distributed to MS

Criteria for deploying EOM

Decision taken by High Representative in charge of external relations based on :

- **Invitation to observe**
- **Memorandum of Understanding signed with country where election will be observed**
- **Consistency with EU democratisation and crisis management initiatives**
- **Value of constructive engagement, added value**

Implementation of EU EOMs

- Identifying needs & budget (ExM)
- Selecting Service Provider (SP) to organise security & logistics
- 5 entities shortlisted as possible IP: IOM, GTZ, UNOPS, ICON & TRANSTEC
- Request for services is launched – 14 days to answer – offers evaluated by a selection committee chaired by AIDCO.

Selection of Service Provider

- Quality of experts (logistics, security & project manager)
- Quality of methodology (addressing main bottlenecks identified during ExM)
- Ability to work EFFICIENTLY: observers' deployment, import material, set up security system, evacuation plan...

Selection of observers

- Chief Observer: Decision by Commissioner for External Relations
- Core Team: selected by Commission
- LTO/STO's: Nominated by Member States, selected by Commission
- MEP Delegation: Decided by European Parliament ECG

Current Challenges

Increase Follow-up

- Mainstream EOM findings and recommendations at various levels:
 - EU declarations
 - political dialogue
 - co-operation programmes
 - EIDHR programming
- Follow-up missions

- Reinforce the assessment of crucial part of the process:
 - voter registration (Expert Missions)
 - tabulation of results
- **Include ICT component in EU observation methodology**
 - Biometric voter registration
 - E-voting & tabulation
- Strengthen observer's training & enhance their knowledge on new ICT

