European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

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Joint Training on

Effective Electoral Assistance

EU Election Observation Missions: context, planning, implementation

Accra– 29 June-03July 2009

Preliminary Remarks on Terminology

- **Electoral Supervision: Supervision can be defined as direct involvement in establishing the mechanisms of the election such as the date, the issuing of regulations, wording of the ballot, monitoring polling stations, counting the ballots, and assisting in the resolution of disputes**

- **Election Observation: Election observation consists of systematic collection of information on an electoral process by direct observation on the basis of established methodologies, often analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data. Observers do not participate in the electoral process**

- **Expert Monitoring: provide an independent assessment of the overall political and technical conduct of elections. The assessment is for an internal purpose**

2000 Communication

(Reference: COM(2000) 191 final)

- A “milestone” in the development of EU EOMs.
- Strategy is based on:
  - Strategic approach to programming
  - Coherence with Human Rights and Democracy initiatives
  - Standard methodology
  - Long-term, comprehensive election observation
  - Independence of EU EOM to assessment election

The International Election Observation Cycle

Chambers/Merhi, 2009

Organising EU EOMs

- Programming
- Exploratory Mission
- Decision
- Contracting I.P/ / Selection
- « Core Team » Deployment
- Observers (LTOs, STOs) Deployment
- E-Day + PRELIMINARY STATEMENT
- FINAL REPORT
- Closure

Programming

- Election calendar

- Identification of “priority” and “to be followed” countries – How? How Many? How Much?

  - Consistency with EU democratisation and crisis management initiatives; increasing peace building component

Institutional Setting of Programming

- Intra-Commission consultation: RELEX,DEV,AIDCO – Delegations

- Inter-institutional Dialogue:
  - Consultation with Council Policy Unit
  - Consultation with Member States in all relevant Council Working Groups (COHOM, COASI, COAFR, COLAT, etc.)

Exploratory Mission

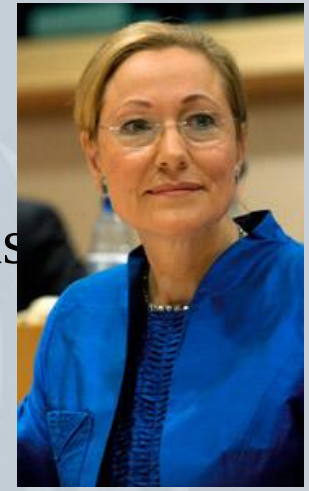
- Composition: COM officials (3) + experts contracted (3) + MS secondments (2 max)

⇨REPORT

- Advisable : Genuine elections?
- Useful : Added value of EU EOM?
- Feasible : Modalities for EU EOM + Logistics/security? Implementing Partner ?

- Findings sent to Member States and European Parliament ECG

Decision to deploy EOM



- Decision made by Commissioner for External Relations and Neighbourhood Policy (Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner)

- Following Exploratory Missions to a number of countries, a decision has been taken not to deploy an EOM – e.g. Colombia, Papua New Guinea and Egypt
- Reply to Invitation

- Memorandum of Understanding signed with country where election will be observed

Pre Election Phase: EU EOM Composition

- Commissioner nominates Chief Observer, usually MEP
- Implementing Partner contracted
- Core team members identified and contracted by the Commission based on a call for candidates on the internet
- LTOs and STOs proposed by Member States and selected by Commission based on standardised procedures through roster

EUEOM Today

Annex B: Charts on EU EOM Deployment (2004-2008)

Chart 1

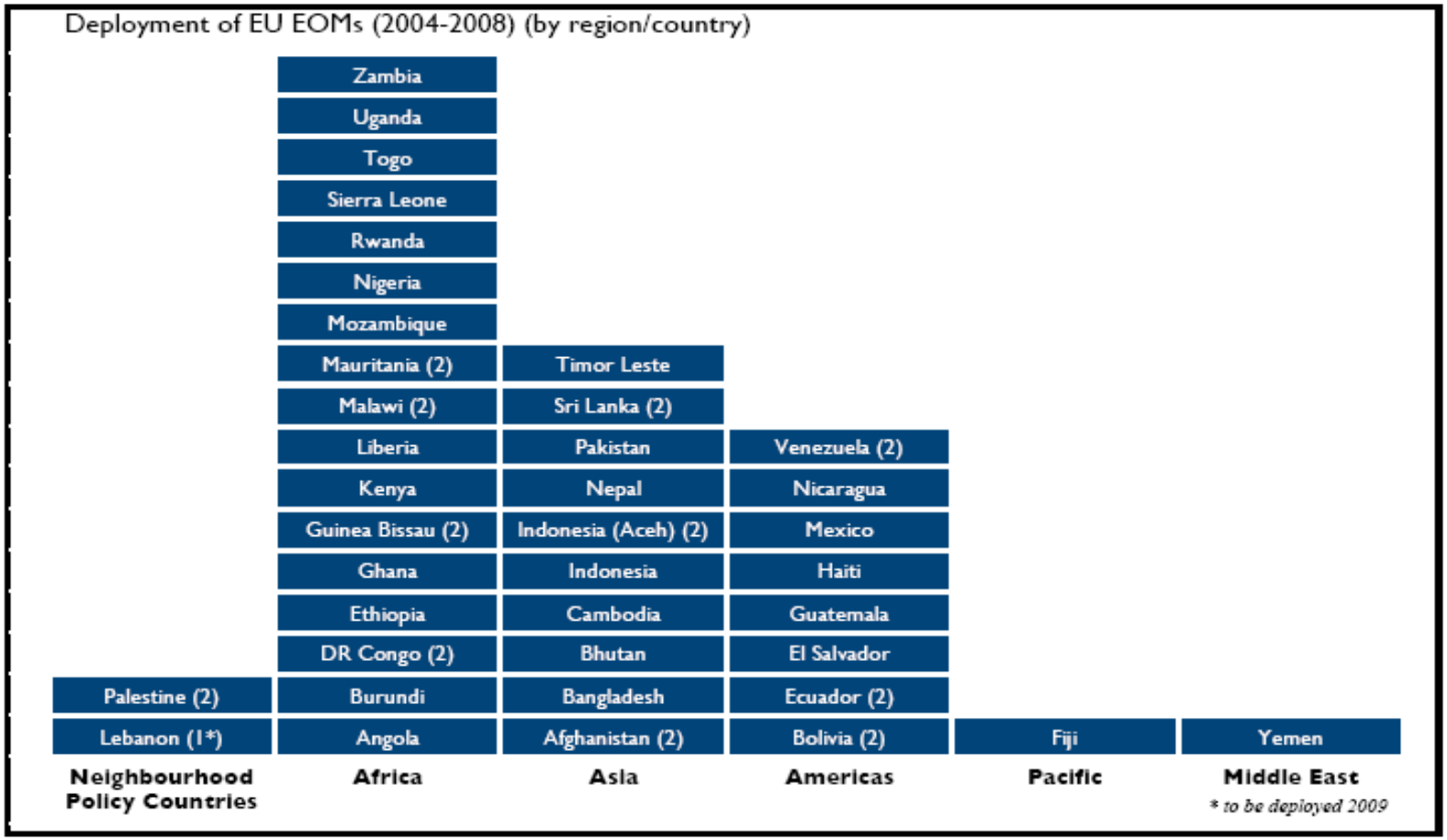
Deployment of EU EOMs (2004-2008) (by year)

2004 *(4)*	2005 *(10)*	2006 *(13)*	2007 *(9)*	2008 *(10)*	2009 *(2)*
		Indonesia (Aceh)			
		Venezuela			
		Nicaragua			
	Ethiopia	Mauritania		Bangladesh	
	Lebanon	Zambia	Kenya	Ghana	
	Afghanistan	Yemen	Togo	Guinea Bissau	
	Guinea Bissau	Mexico	Ecuador	Ecuador	
	Burundi	Bolivia	Guatemala	Angola	
	Liberia	DR Congo	Sierra Leone	Rwanda	
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Fiji	Indonesia (Aceh)	Cambodia	Malawi *
Malawi	Venezuela	Uganda	Timor Leste	Nepal	Lebanon *
Mozambique	DR Congo	Haiti	Nigeria	Bhutan	El Salvador
Indonesia	Palestine	Palestine	Mauritania	Pakistan	Bolivia

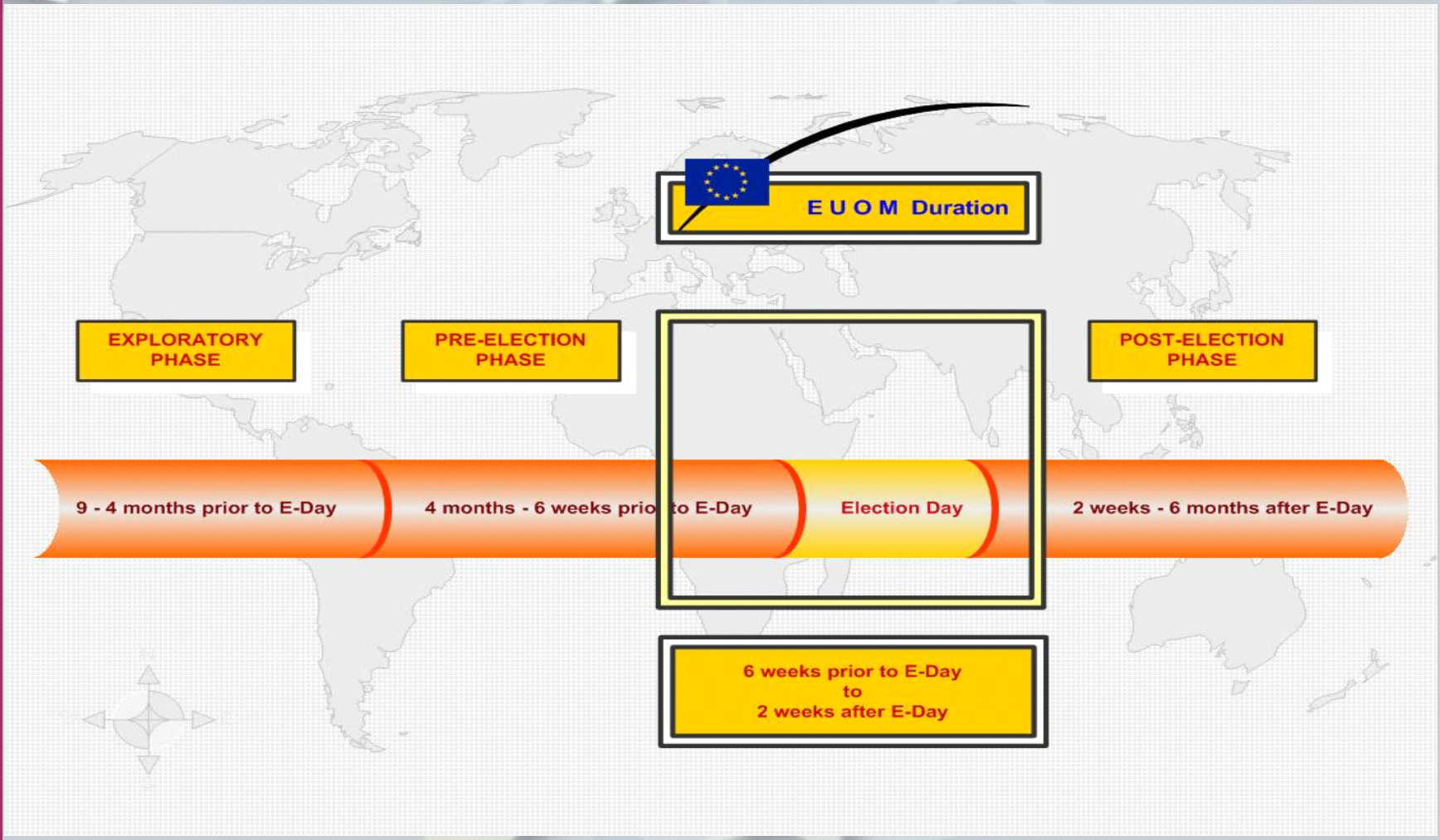
** to be deployed*

EUEOM today

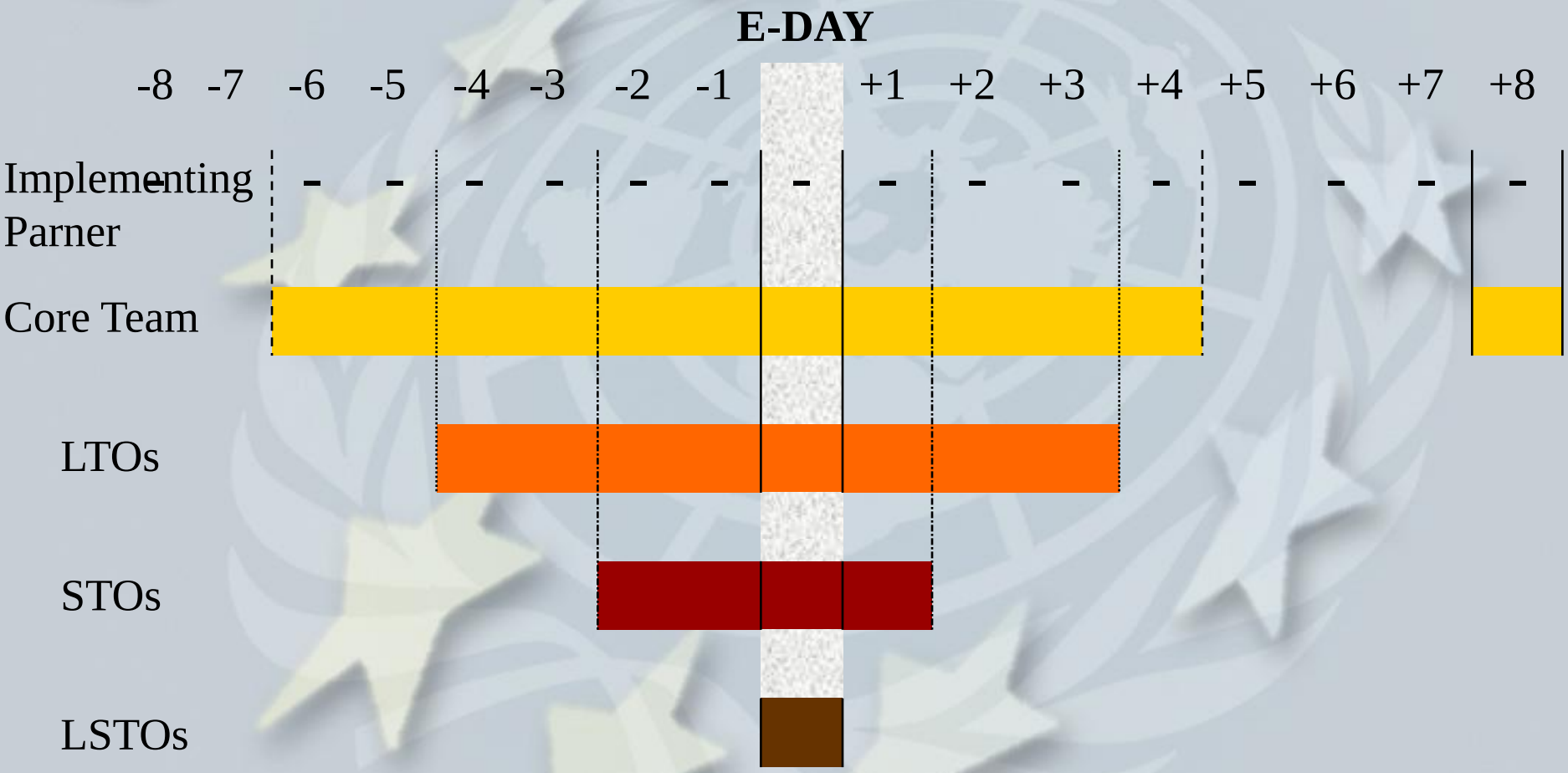
Chart 2



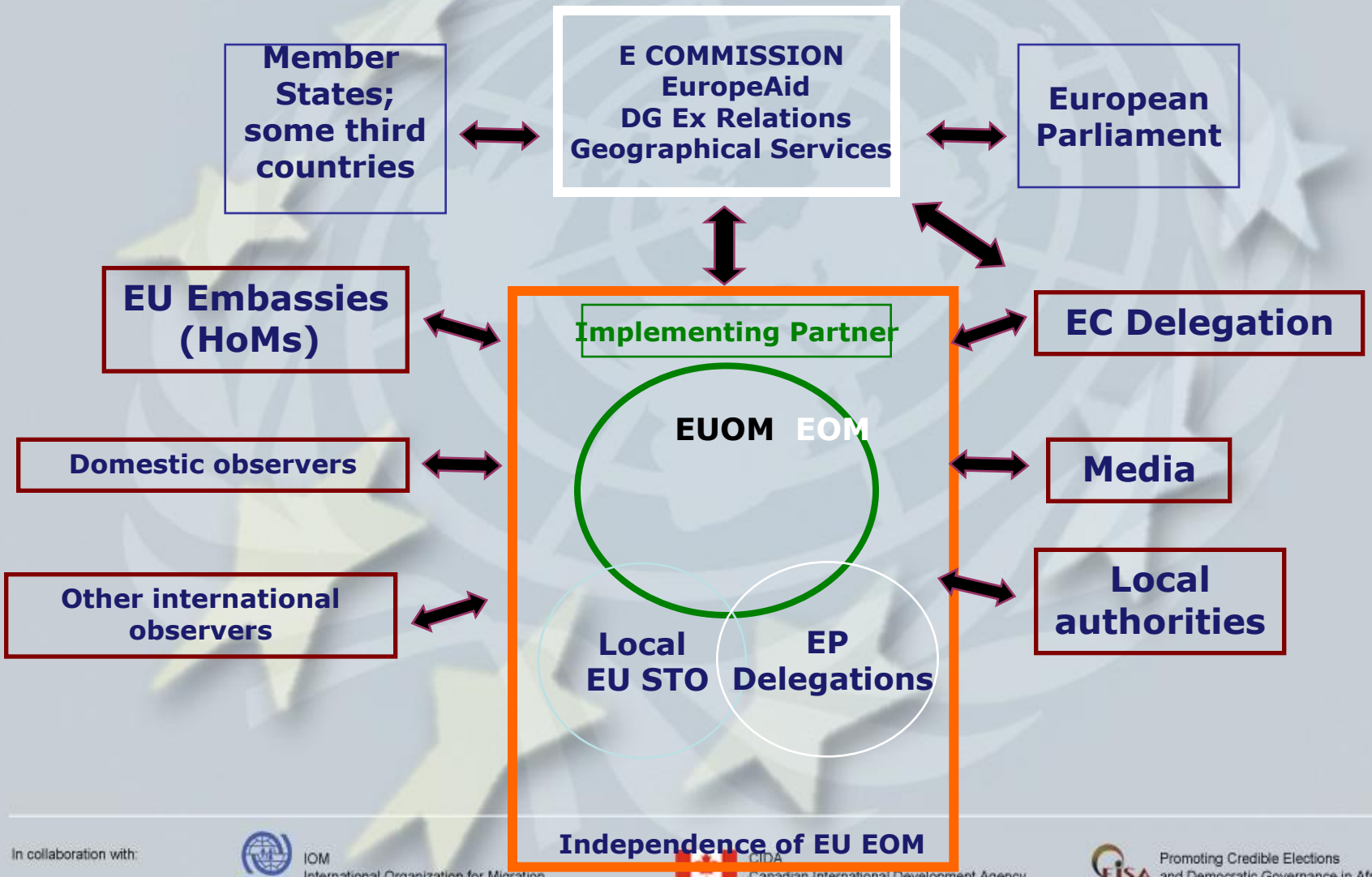
Election Timeline



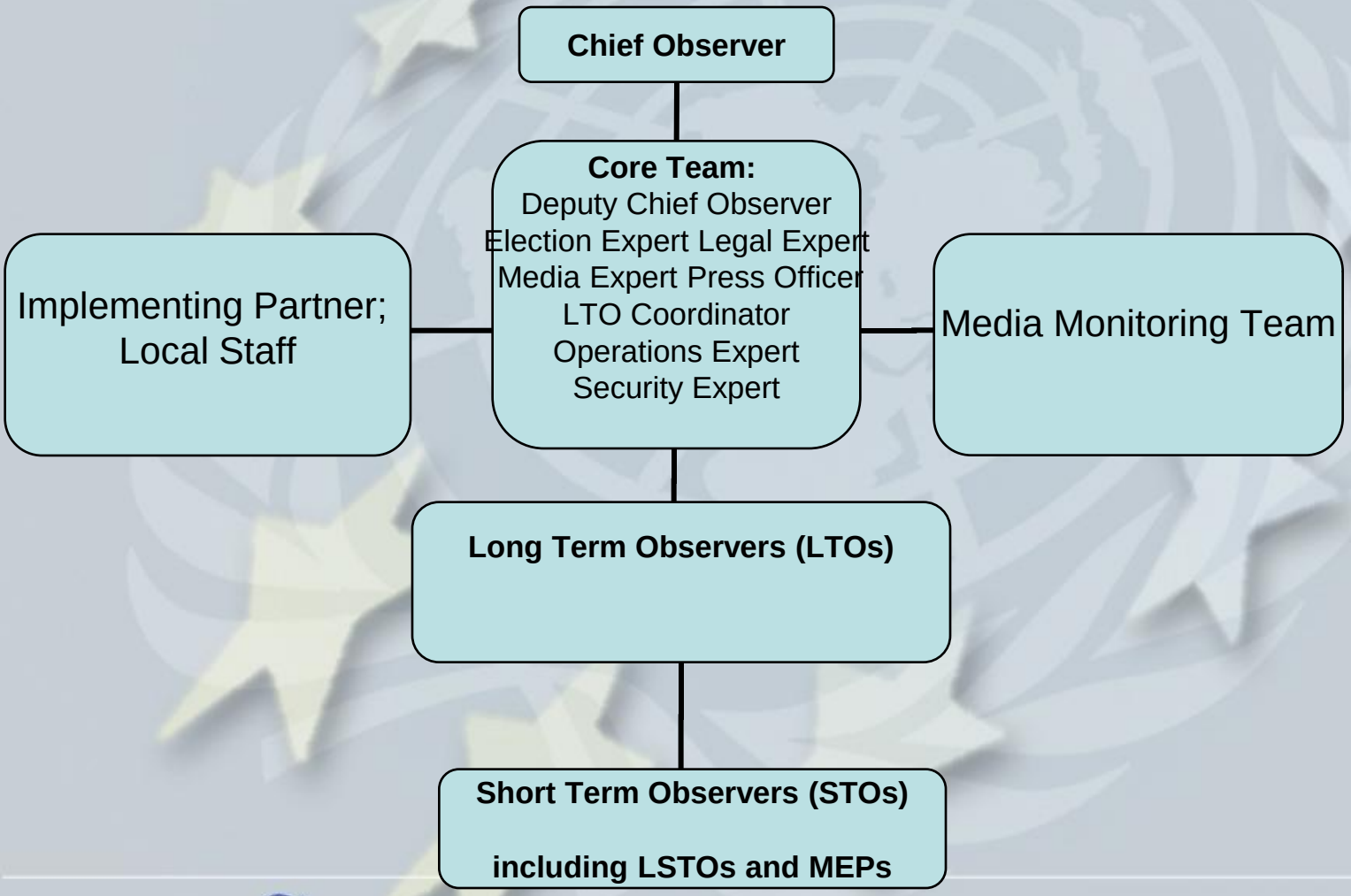
Deployment Timing



EU EOM External Environment



EU EOM Mission Structure:



IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

- **Team**
  - Task Managers
  - IT Specialist
  - Accountant
  - Staff
- **Tasks**
  - Contracting CT, Observers
  - Offices, Accomodation
  - Travels
  - Briefings
  - Office Equipments
  - Communication Equipments
  - Transports (4x4, cars,…)
  - Observers Kits
  - Security
  - Visibility
  - Reporting

OBSERVERS

- Volunteers
- Requested by Commission Services
- Proposed by Member States Focal Points (Dpt Foreign Affairs)
- Selected by Commission services via Roster
- Long Term Observers (LTOs) +/- 2 months
- Short Term Observers (STOs) +/- 10 days
- Local STOs : 1 day
- Note: LSTOs
- Note: EP Delegation Observers

Long Term Observer (LTO)

- Main Tasks:
  - Contacts with Local Actors
  - Prepare local Deployment Plan
  - Report (weekly) on pre-election background
  - E-day: Observe, coordinate STOs, report
  - Report on post-election background
  - Evaluation of STOs
  - …
- Duties
  - EU Code of Conduct
  - Follow CT guidelines
- Equipment
  - Laptop, communication, personnal kits, visibility…
- Insurance
  - Medical expenses
  - Accident/Death
  - Evacuation

Short Term Observer

- Main Task : Report on E-Day (10 to 15 polling stations)
- Duties : EU Code of Conduct
  Security Measures
- Duration : +/- 10 days
- Equipment : IT – Communication – Visibility –
  Medical Kit – Info Kit
- Insurance : Medical Expenses
  Accidents/Death
  Repatriation

Selection Procedures

- **Announcement to MS via Roster:**
  - Country, election, deployment dates
  - LTOs and STOs numbers requested per country – priority ranking
  - Profile
    - Language
    - Experience
    - Training
    - Specific conditions
- **Selection Committee** (AIDCO, RELEX, DEV)
  - CV analysis
  - Balance between nationalities, gender, experience, age,…
- **Results publication** via Roster
  - Selected
  - Reserve List
  - Non selected
- **Information to** Implementing Partner

Mission output

- 1-3 days after election :
  EU EOM Preliminary Statement
- Possibly followed up by EU Member States / Presidency Declaration

- 1-2 months after final results
  a comprehensive EU EOM Final Report, which is presented to the authorities during RETURN MISSION

Final Report

- Usually issued approximately one to two months after an election (return mission)
- Includes detailed comment on all aspects of the electoral process and recommendations to improve the process
- Increasingly important document in terms of follow-up

Press - Commission expectations

- Election Observation Missions are one of our most effective instruments in supporting democratic processes.
- Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner has made election observation one of her priorities as Commissioner.
- She personally selects chief observers and follows closely the mission's work and results.

Brussels level

- ***What do we do in Brussels?***
- Press release announcing the mission. When core team is deployed. Draft needs to be received at least 3 working days before publication date.
- Coordination with other observers, UN agencies etc
- Regular contacts between Commissioner and CO, prior, during and after mission
- Statement by Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner - and Michel, depending on the country - after official election results are made public.
- Mission follow up: return mission and assistance programming; lessons learned seminars etc