



European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

***Joint Training on
Effective Electoral Assistance***

DAY 1

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EU Electoral Observation Missions

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Election Observation – four questions:

- What is the history of EU EOMs?**
- What is the aim of EU EOMs?**
- What methodology is used on EU EOMs?**
- What is the future for EU EOMs?**



History of EU Election Observation

- **1993 in the Russian Federation and 1994 in South Africa**
- **Until 2000 ad-hoc, case by case approach**
- **2000 Communication on Election Assistance and Observation endorsed by EP and Council in 2001**
- **Since 2000, 40+ EU EOMs deployed to Africa, Asia, Central and South America**



Aim of EU Election Observation

- **Genuine elections are an essential step for democracy,**
- **Important element in the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights**
- **Important impact on the rule of law and the legitimacy of institutional frameworks**



Aim of EU Election Observation

Specifically:

- provide independent, neutral and professional assessment of the election process
- enhance public confidence
- deter fraud, irregularities and intimidation
- contribute to conflict prevention and resolution
- recommend possible improvements



Programming / Election priorities

- From 8 to 14 EU EOMs per year;**
- From 13M€ in 2004 to €30M€+ in 2006**
- Election calendar; “priority” and “to be followed”**
- All geographical services consulted**
- Consultation of Policy Unit and Working Groups of the Council**
- Information of EP Election Coordination Group**
- Political decision of Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner**



Exploratory Mission

- Relex + Aidco + Desk + Experts + Delegation**
- Advisable? Useful? Feasible?**
- Minimum conditions**
 - franchise is generally universal**
 - political parties and candidates are able to take part in election**
 - freedom of expression and movement**
 - reasonable access to the media for all**
- Final decision by Commissioner Ferrero Waldner**



Memorandum of Understanding

- Negotiated by Delegation under instructions from Relex (election observation desk)**
- Memorandum of Understanding signed between EC Delegation and the Government and/or**
- Memorandum of Understanding signed between EC Delegation and election administration**
- (+ MOU with the UN where necessary)**

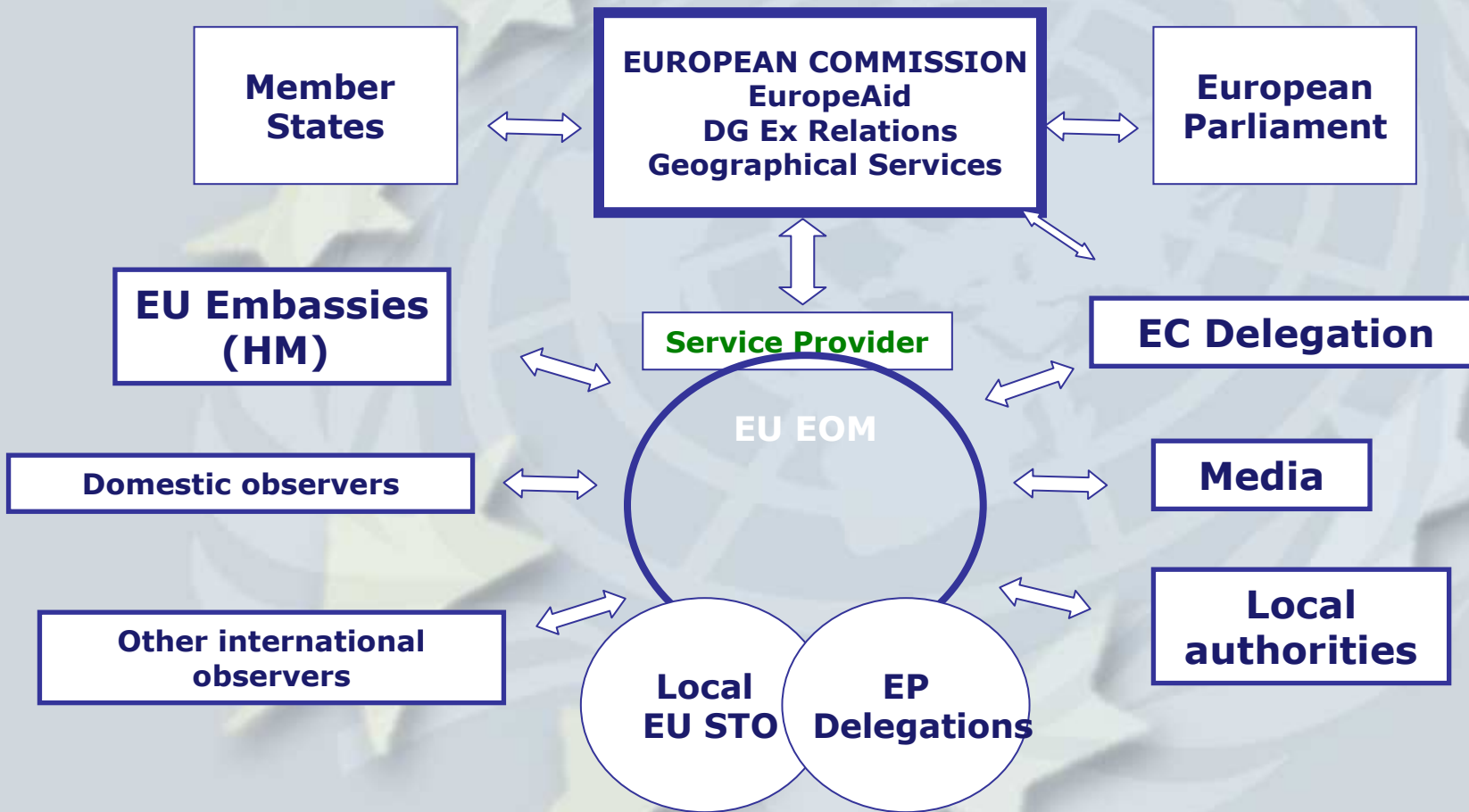


EU observation methodology

- **Assessment of the election against international standards**
- **2005 Declaration of International Principles for International Election Observation**
- **Observe all aspect of the electoral process:**
 - legislative framework
 - election administration
 - campaign
 - media coverage
 - voting, counting and tabulation of results
 - complaints and appeals



EU EOM External Environment





Preliminary Statement

- usually issued within 48 hours after an election
- most important document issued by the EOM
- high visibility



EUROPEAN UNION
ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION
WEST BANK & GAZA 2006

STATEMENT OF PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS

Open and well-run parliamentary elections strengthen Palestinian commitment to democratic institutions

Jerusalem, 26 January 2006

The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) has been present in the West Bank and Gaza since 13 December 2005 following an invitation from the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Palestine. The Mission is led by Chief Observer Mr. Véronique De Keyser from Belgium, Member of the European Parliament. In total, the EU EOM deployed over 185 observers from 23 EU Member States as well as Norway, Switzerland and Romania. The observers were deployed throughout the West Bank and Gaza to assess the whole electoral process in the light of international principles for genuine democratic elections. The EU EOM was joined by a 27-member delegation from the European Parliament, the largest elected parliamentary observer delegation, led by Mr Edward McMillan-Scott MEP of the United Kingdom, who endorse this Statement. On election day, the observers visited over 800 polling stations in 14 of the 16 electoral districts in West Bank and Gaza to observe voting and counting. The EU EOM is currently observing the conclusion of the counting and result tabulation procedures and will remain in country to observe all aspects of the post-election process.

Preliminary Conclusions

- The 25 January elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) have to far marked another important milestone in the building of democratic institutions. These elections saw impressive voter participation in an open and fairly-contested electoral process that was efficiently administered by a professional and independent Palestinian Central Elections Commission (CEC).
- As with the 2005 presidential election, the Palestinian people have demonstrated an overwhelming commitment to determine their political future via democratic means, in spite of the uncertain conditions in which the election took place: a background of delay, unacceptable levels of pre-campaign violence and an occupation that placed restrictions on the exercise of fundamental freedoms related to elections.
- Voting on 25 January proceeded smoothly and peacefully with an impressive turnout of 77 per cent of the total number of registered voters. Procedures were well-followed by CEC polling staff and domestic observers and candidate representatives were present in almost all polling stations. The procedure for counting were similarly well-run. Campaigning was seen to take place both inside and outside of many polling stations, often vigorously and in contravention of the law. There were numerous shortcomings with the voting arrangements in East Jerusalem.
- The CEC commands a high degree of public confidence. It maintained integrity in the face of intimidation, including attacks on its building and threats against staff, that sought to influence the candidate registration process. These attempts to pressure the election administration, all of which have gone unpunished, reflect a culture of impunity for militant groups that the Palestinian leadership must demonstrate more determination to end.
- Candidates from across the whole political spectrum participated in the elections. The campaign took place in a generally calm and positive atmosphere, with an absence of provocative rhetoric. However, restriction by Israeli forces on the freedom of movement by candidates and voters reduced the scope for genuinely free elections. Arbitrary restrictions on campaigning and the freedom of assembly by candidates in East Jerusalem led to a number of arrests and prevented a proper campaign from taking place in the city.



Final Report



LIBERIA

**PRESIDENTIAL & LEGISLATIVE
ELECTIONS**
11 October 2005

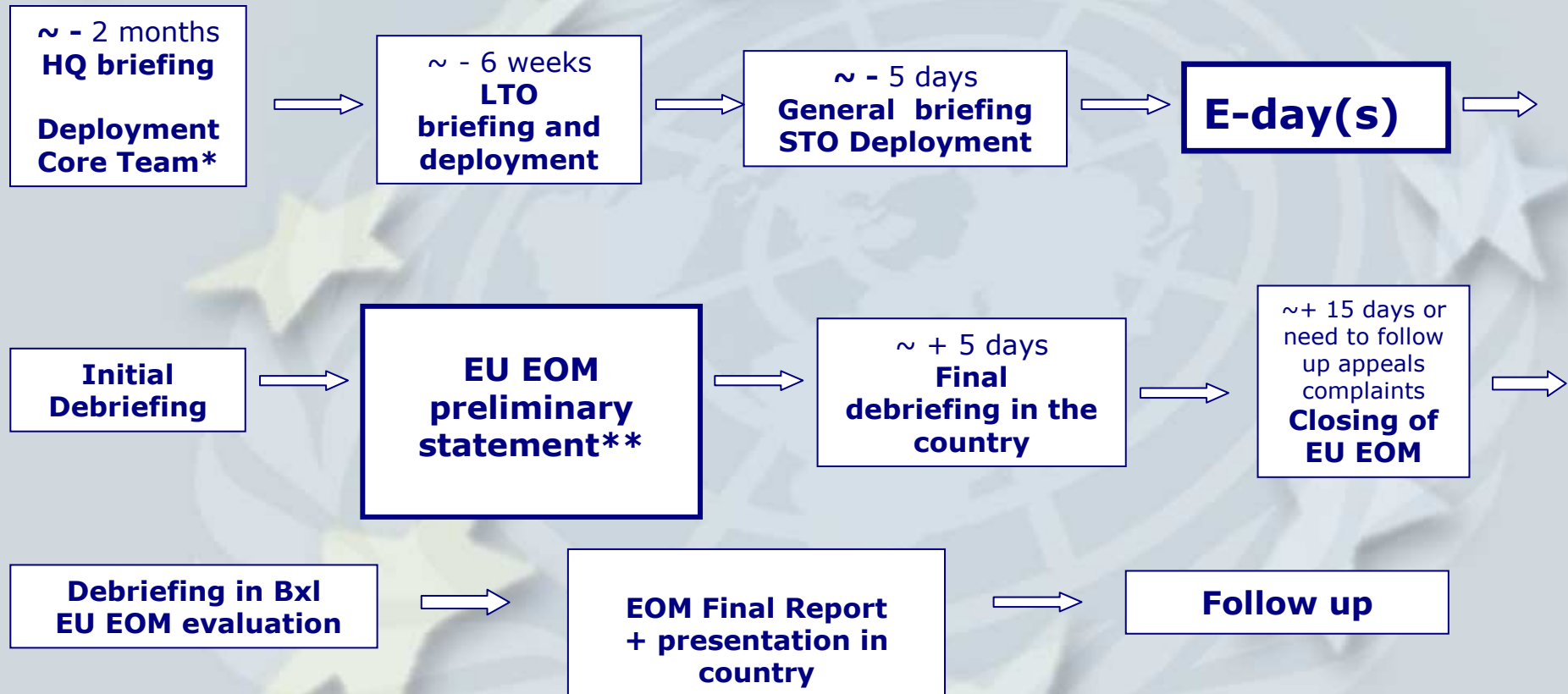
FINAL REPORT

**EUROPEAN UNION
ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION**

- Issued approx. one to two months after**
- Comments on all aspects of the elections**
- Includes possible recommendations to improve the process**
- increasingly important document in terms of follow-up**



EU EOM : Implementation



* during which:

1. Circulation of regular reports from the Mission to the Commission, Council, EP
2. Regular consultations between CO and Commission's Services (Del + HQ) and EU M States

** The EU Presidency may also make a Declaration subsequent to the EOM's statement



Core Team

- **Usually between six to ten team members**
- **Deployed for around two months to assess the election process following standard methodology**
- **Co-ordinates and manages the deployment of LTOs and STOs**
- **Led by a Chief Observer, usually MEP, appointed by Commissioner for External Relations**



Core Team Members

- Chief Observer**
- Deputy Chief Observer**
- Legal Expert/Election Analyst**
- Country Expert**
- Media Expert/Press Officer**
- LTO Co-ordinator**
- Operations Expert**
- Security Expert**

- SERVICE PROVIDER**



Long Term Observers (LTOs)

- **Proposed by Member States via EC Roster**
- **Deployed for around six weeks in pairs throughout the country**
- **Between 15-60 LTOs**
- **Follow electoral process at regional level**
- **Co-ordinate STOs**





Short Term Observers (STOs)

- **Proposed by Member States via EC Roster**
- **Deployed for around ten days over the election day period**
- **Observe voting, counting and tabulation of results**
- **Usually between 50-100 STOs**
- **Can be joined by MEPs or locally recruited observers**





Future Developments

- **Further development of methodology in areas such as women and national minority participation, electronic voting, etc...**
- **Increased focus on follow-up**
- **Mainstream EOM findings and recommendations at various levels including:**
 - EU declarations
 - Political dialogue
 - EIDHR programming
 - Co-operation programmes
- **Greater involvement in post-conflict elections**



Follow-up of EUEOM recommendations: Hurdles

- Negotiation with National Authorities and EMBs**
- Involvement of Member States**
- Interaction with other actors, especially UN**
- Electoral Assistance Scenarios**
- Changes of staff at Delegation, HQ, EMBs...**
- Recommendations need to be drafted in such a way to be translated in activities**
- EUEOM: Limited of knowledge of electoral assistance, development cooperation and Project Cycle Management mechanisms**
- PIF, PF, FA, CA, QSG and ISC, EDF Committee...**



Follow-up of EUEOM recommendations: solutions

- Mechanisms to institutionalize follow-up**
- Better coordination between EC services**
- Sierra Leone, Nigeria and DRC case**
- Electoral Cycle Approach**
- Methodological Guide on Electoral Assistance**
- Training on Effective Electoral Assistance for implementing agencies and electoral consultants**
- Synergies with NEEDS**
- How to: indicated in the Methodological Guide and new manual of EUEOM**

