



EUROPEAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION
REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, SEPTEMBER 2008

EU Opens Mission to Observe Legislative Elections

Luanda, 7 August 2008. Following an invitation from the National Electoral Commission (CNE) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Angola, the European Union has established a mission to observe the Legislative Elections scheduled for 5 September 2008. The EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) is headed by Ms. Luisa Morgantini from Italy, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

On her arrival on 5 August, Ms. Morgantini said:

“I feel proud and honored to be given the opportunity to lead the EU observation mission to Angola. The electoral process is crucial, and challenging for the country after so many years of suffering and war. The people of Angola want peace, a peace with justice and an opportunity for development.” - “We are here in the spirit of cooperation with Angola and see these elections as a fundamental step to further strengthen the country’s democracy and sovereignty.”

In addition to the Chief Observer, the EU EOM comprises a core team of eight electoral experts who coordinate the mission from the EOM office in Luanda. 40 Long-Term Observers (LTOs) will arrive on 9 August and will be deployed in teams of two around the country. Before Election Day, around 50 Short-Term Observers (STOs) will join the EU EOM to observe the polling and counting procedures around the country. On Election Day, the mission will comprise more than 100 observers from 20 different EU Member States. The EU EOM will remain in country for several weeks after the election to assess the final stages of the electoral process.

The EU considers election observation to be a key component of its policy of promoting human rights and democracy throughout the world. The mandate of the EU EOM is to observe all aspects of the election process and to assess the extent to which the election complies with international and regional standards for democratic elections, as well as with the laws of Angola.

All observers will be impartial and will operate under an internationally accepted code of conduct, and in accordance with the Angolan laws for election observation. They will assess the entire election process including the legal and electoral framework and the work of the election administration; the campaign activities; the coverage and conduct of the media during the electoral campaign; the voting, counting and aggregation of results.

The mission is independent from the European Commission Delegation to Angola and the EU Member States. It operates in accordance with the “Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation” adopted in 2005 at the United Nations in New York by a number of international bodies involved in election observation

Shortly after Election Day, the EU observation mission will issue a preliminary statement of its initial findings at a press conference in Luanda. A more comprehensive report, including recommendations for future elections, will be published two months after the end of the elections.

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