



**EU EOM
Parliamentary and Provincial Elections
Afghanistan 2005**

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EU EOM Long-Term Observers are deployed in Afghanistan

Kabul, 20nd August 2005

Long-term observers from the European Union Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Afghanistan have arrived in Kabul for the Parliamentary and Provincial elections taking place on September 18th. In total, there will be 60 LTOs from 18 countries across the EU.

They join the EU EOM Chief Observer, Ms. Emma Bonino, as well as the Core Team of 12 members, who arrived in Afghanistan in July.

The LTOs will be deployed in teams of two to the majority of the country's 34 provinces, where they will observe the election preparations, the election campaign itself - officially kicking off on August 17th - as well as the role of the media. A few days ahead of Election Day, the EU EOM will be joined by short-term observers and the entire team will then observe polling, counting, the tabulation of results and the handling of possible complaints and appeals procedures.

“The work of long-term observers will allow the EU EOM to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the electoral process over a period of nearly two

months – before, during and after E-Day,” said Emma Bonino,” Observers will clearly distinguish between rumours and accusations on one hand, and verifiable facts on the other, so that an informed and impartial assessment of the election can be made”.

In total, the EU EOM to Afghanistan will comprise some 120 people, making it the largest international observation mission deployed for these elections.

After the elections, the EU EOM will issue a statement on its preliminary findings. A more comprehensive report will be presented at a later stage, as well as a set of recommendations on steps to be taken towards wider democratisation and sustainability of the process.

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