FACTSHEET

MANDATE Upon invitation by the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, an EU Election Assessment Team (EAT) has arrived in the country to evaluate the presidential and provincial councils elections scheduled to take place on 5 April 2014.

COMPOSITION The EU EAT is led by Chief Observer Thijs BERMAN, member of the European Parliament, and consists of 16 international experts from 13 European countries deployed since March 15, 2014: a Deputy Chief Observer, five analysts (electoral, legal, political, media, data), eight regional experts, and a press and public outreach officer. Furthermore, on Election Day and during tallying of the votes, several dozens of locally based European diplomats will complete the Team for observation purposes. The EU EAT is based in Kabul and its members will visit the major provinces, including Herat, Nangarhar, Kandahar and Balkh. The Mission will stay in the country until completion of the electoral process.

A Dutch member of the European Parliament since 2004, Thijs BERMAN is a former journalist who was correspondent in Paris and Moscow. Member of the Group of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, he is also member of the Committee for Development and Humanitarian Affairs and of the Sub-Committee for Human Rights. Thijs BERMAN is president of the Delegation for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with Afghanistan. He has been Chief Observer of the EU Election Observation Missions in Afghanistan (2009), Ethiopia (2010) and Senegal (2012).

METHODOLOGY The EU EAT will focus on the key stages of the electoral process, such as the legal and electoral framework, the election campaign, the media environment, the voting, counting, aggregation, tallying of results and the handling of eventual election complaints. The EU EAT will take into consideration all main aspects of the electoral process and will evaluate their compliance with Afghan law, and with regional and international standards for democratic elections.

The EU Election Assessment Team will liaise with key Afghan stakeholders, including civil society and national observers groups, as well as with international observers and other actors providing electoral technical assistance. The EU EAT seeks to offer an impartial, balanced and informed analysis of the Afghan elections. Thereby, the Mission aims to contribute to the democratic process in Afghanistan.

The EU EAT will issue a Preliminary Statement two days after the elections of April 5 and a second Preliminary Statement will follow in case of a runoff in the presidential election. Some two months after the completion of the election process, a comprehensive Final Report will be issued including recommendations for future elections.

EU observers adhere to a Code of Conduct imposing strict neutrality, impartiality and independence in the course of their work. The EU EAT operates in accordance with the UN “Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation” adopted in 2005.

Alain CHABOD - Press and public outreach officer - Mob. : +93 (0) 799 475 294 - Mail: alain.chabod@eueat-afghanistan.eu