EU EAT PRESS RELEASE
Date: 19/07/2014

WITH MORE THAN 240 EU OBSERVERS INVOLVED, THE EU EAT IS ACTIVELY ASSESSING THE ONGOING AUDIT OF THE AFGHAN PRESIDENTIAL RUN-OFF VOTE

Kabul, 19 July 2014 – The European Union Election Assessment Team (EU EAT) is fully and actively observing the ongoing audit of the Presidential run-off vote.

The EU EAT is the main international observer organization participating to the present audit. In the coming weeks, up to 242 observers will be involved in the EU EAT assessment of the Afghan Presidential run-off vote, liaising with all Afghan and international observer bodies present.

The EU EAT observers, working in shifts on a permanent basis, will assess if the audit process is conducted in line with agreed procedures. Possible irregularities will be registered and brought to the attention of the authorities in charge.

Thijs Berman, Chief Observer of the EU Election Assessment Team, states: “The European support for this audit in Afghanistan is unprecedented in the history of EU election observation missions around the world. This audit is a necessary step. We have repeatedly called for it, because only with full transparency and an in-depth audit on possible fraud the Afghan people will be able to feel confident about the outcome of these elections. The European Union is committed to a democratic future for Afghanistan and therefore increases its efforts to assess this audit”.

Since the start of the audit on 17 July, the EU Election Assessment Team is deploying a sufficient number of observers to be able to follow the auditing process at the Independent Election Commission (IEC), and will continue to do so.

“Negotiations on the precise audit procedure need to be concluded soon”

The EU EAT already trained in audit methodology a first group of 135 observers in Kabul, including a majority of diplomats from EU Member States embassies based in the Afghan capital, as well as US diplomats and USAID staff. An additional 100 observers will be trained in similar conditions on 20 July in Kabul, 35 of them European.

Moreover, the EU is currently recruiting another 100 observers from EU Member States, as well as from Canada, Norway and Switzerland. These additional observers will soon arrive in Kabul to be trained and deployed for the audit.

Concerning talks between election stakeholders, EU Chief Observer Thijs Berman expresses the concern that the negotiations on the precise audit procedure need to be concluded soon. “Candidates should continue their dialogue with the election authorities and the United Nations in a constructive spirit, and agree on all aspects of the audit process without delay. They have the collective responsibility to contribute to a speedy process that respects the will of the Afghan voters”, highlights Thijs Berman.

The EU Election Assessment Team (EU EAT) has been present in Afghanistan since 15 March to observe the Presidential election. The EU EAT is led by Chief Observer Thijs Berman, a Dutch member of the European Parliament (2004-2014). The EU EAT is independent in its findings and conclusions and adheres to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation signed at the United Nations in October 2005.

For further information, please contact: Alain CHABOD, EU EAT press and public outreach officer - mobile: +93 (0) 788 745 752 alain.chabod@eueat-afghanistan.eu and Romal AYAR, EU EAT press office assistant romal.ayar@eueat-afghanistan.eu