



## European Union Election Observation Mission The Gambia Presidential Elections 2021

The European Union has deployed an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to The Gambia on 27 October to observe the general elections on 04 December 2021.

### About the EU EOM

The European Union Election Observation Mission is led by **Chief Observer, Norbert Neuser**, a Member of the European Parliament from Germany. In total, the mission will comprise around 50 observers from 17 EU Member States and Norway.

A core team of nine analysts arrived in Banjul on 27 October. The core team assesses all aspects and stages of the electoral process, including political, electoral and legal issues, and is supported by logistical and security experts.

Norbert Neuser  
EU EOM Chief Observer.



16 long-term observers were deployed across The Gambia on 07 November to cover all provinces. They observe the electoral process in their areas and report back to the core team in Banjul.

Before election day, the mission is also joined by 16 short-term observers from different EU member states.

On election day 7 members of the EU Parliament will join the mission. They observe voting, counting and the tabulation of results.

### What is the mandate of the EU EOM?

The EU has deployed an Election Observation Mission to observe the elections following an invitation by the Independent Electoral Commission of The Gambia.

The mission's mandate is to observe all aspects of the electoral process and assess the extent to which the elections comply with international and regional commitments for elections, as well as with the laws of The Gambia.

The EOM is independent in its findings from the EU Delegation to The Gambia, EU member states, and all EU institutions.

The EU EOM will observe and assess:

- the legal framework and its implementation;
- the work of the election administration;
- campaign activities;
- the role of state institutions and civil society;
- the conduct of the media;
- voting, counting and tabulation;
- the environment in which the election is being conducted;
- the complaints and appeals process.

### The EU EOM uses the following assessment criteria during its observation of an electoral process:

- the degree of impartiality shown by the election administration;
- the degree of freedom of political parties and candidates to assemble and express their views;
- the degree of an open and fairly contested campaign;
- the universal franchise afforded to voters;
- the degree of access for political parties and candidates to state media and private media;
- any other issue which concerns the democratic nature of the elections (e.g. campaign environment; rule of law; legal framework);
- the conduct of polling and counting of votes.

### Background to EU Election Observation

The EU has an established methodology for observing elections. Observers do not interfere in the electoral process and have no authority to change or correct any shortcomings. All EU election observers are bound by a strict code of conduct and ethical guidelines that guarantee their neutrality and impartiality.

The EU EOM evaluates according to international standards and operates in accordance with the 'Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation' adopted at the United Nations in 2005 by a number of international bodies involved in election observation.

The main objectives of EU Election Observation are:

- to support the democratic process in partner countries;
- to enhance public confidence in the electoral process;
- to strengthen respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The EU EOM will present a preliminary statement within 48 hours after election day. A final report with recommendations for future elections will be presented approximately two to three months after the end of the whole electoral process.

Mandate and methodology of EU election observation : [http://eeas.europa.eu/eueom/pdf/handbook\\_eom\\_2016\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/eueom/pdf/handbook_eom_2016_en.pdf)

### How do I contact the EU EOM?

Email: [press@eueomgambia2021.eu](mailto:press@eueomgambia2021.eu)

Web: [https://eeas.europa.eu/election-observation-missions/eom-gambia-2021\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/election-observation-missions/eom-gambia-2021_en)

@eueomGambia2021 @eueomGambia2021

**Media Contact:** Press Officer, René Schulthoff

Email: [rene.schulthoff@eueomgambia2021.eu](mailto:rene.schulthoff@eueomgambia2021.eu)

Mobile: +220 255 7120