



**EUROPEAN UNION  
ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION**

**General Elections – Sierra Leone  
24 June 2023**



**The European Union Election Observation Mission  
deploys 40 short-term observers to all districts of Sierra Leone**

Freetown, 21 June 2023

For Immediate Release

On 21 June, the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) deploys 40 short-term observers (STOs) to all 16 districts of Sierra Leone where they will primarily observe opening, voting, and counting of the ballots, as well as the tabulation of the results. The short-term observers will work in multinational teams of two and, prior to their deployment, they received a comprehensive briefing focusing on election day proceedings.

*“By deploying more than 100 observers the European Union clearly shows its commitment to support the democratic processes in Sierra Leone, strengthening respect for human rights and the rule of law. We as a mission stand ready to observe shoulder to shoulder with Sierra Leonean people till the completion of the electoral process,”* said the Chief Observer Evin Incir, Member of the European Parliament (MEP).

The deployment of the STOs comes after 28 long-term observers who arrived in second half of May to observe the pre-election period. A delegation of members of the European Parliament, headed by Mr. Georgios Krystos (MEP), will also be integrated into the mission as will a team of 14 locally recruited short-term observers from the diplomatic missions of EU member states accredited to Sierra Leone. At full strength the EU EOM will comprise more than 100 observers, drawn from 26 EU member states, Canada, and Norway.

*“Election observation is not a one-day event. To make an informed assessment of 2023 general elections, the EU EOM started its work already in mid-May and has deployed 28 long-term observers across the country to follow various aspects of electoral process, such as election preparations, campaign activities, work of media, participation of women, as well as various voter information efforts”* said the Chief Observer Evin Incir.

On Monday 26 June, the EU EOM will hold a press conference to present its preliminary statement of findings and conclusions. A final report offering recommendations for future electoral processes will be presented after the completion of the entire election process.

The EU EOM is bound by a code of conduct, which requires strict neutrality and non-interference. It undertakes its work in accordance with the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, endorsed under UN auspices in 2005.

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