

Council Decision 8728/99 – PESC 165 – COHOM 4

EU GUIDELINES ON COMMON CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION

OF ELECTORAL OBSERVERS

EU Election Observers

1. The observation of elections continues to be an important component of the EU's policy of promoting human rights and democratisation throughout the world. The adoption of EU guidelines on preconditions for EU observation missions and a code of conduct for EU electoral observers represented an important step towards enhanced co-ordination within the EU. Further co-ordination within the EU could be achieved through the implementation of the following EU guidelines on common criteria for selection of electoral observers.
2. Selection of candidates for participation on EU electoral observation missions should, as a rule, be made according to a set of common criteria in order to ensure a high professional standard of EU observers. The following criteria are intended as guidelines for the selection of observers for EU electoral observation missions. They are not necessarily intended as guidelines for the selection of observers for missions of other international organisations (e.g. UN, OSCE). They are not intended to apply to members of Parliament.

EU Guidelines on common Criteria for Selection of electoral Observers

- 3 a) All candidates for participation in EU electoral observation missions (short term observers as well as long term observers) should ideally fulfil the following minimum standards:
 - previous experience of election monitoring and/or other relevant experience or know-how and specific training, national and/or international – good experience of the mission's working languages;
 - interpersonal skills (e.g. capacity of balanced judgement, ability to work in teams, ability to cope with difficult situations, respect for local attitudes, good communication skills, readiness to work in a multi-cultural environment);
 - ability to maintain professional independence and strict impartiality in the conduct of duties in the host country;
 - demonstrated commitment to democracy and human rights;
 - EU Member State citizenship.
- 3 b) The following additional criteria should be taken into account when selecting long term observers:

- familiarity and experience with electoral laws and procedures (including inter alia electoral rolls, national electoral committees), not limited to a single electoral tradition;
 - special knowledge of human rights and democratisation issues;
 - basic knowledge of institutional aspects of the EU;
 - analytical and drafting skills.
- 3 c) Mission leaders and/or long term observers acting as team co-ordinators should ideally have furthermore:
- experience at training and instructing people;
 - ability to plan and co-ordinate teams.
4. Specific mission-related requirements may include:
- knowledge of the host country or region and of the situation in the host country;
 - knowledge of relevant languages, e.g. the official language of the host country;
 - independence from the host country's authorities and groups or parties participating in the elections, lack of bias or preference to parties and candidates or to any other body involved in the election process;
 - appropriate physical condition.

Specific mission-related requirements should be established following a pre-mission analysis of the type of election anticipated.