



**EU Election Observation Mission
Republic of Rwanda
Parliamentary Elections 2008**



The European Commission has deployed an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to the Republic of Rwanda to observe the parliamentary election scheduled for 15 - 18 September 2008. The decision was taken following an invitation by the Rwandan authorities. The Mission is headed by Chief Observer Michael Cashman, a British member of the European Parliament.

The Mission consist of a Core Team of eight elections experts. They were joined by 17 Long-term Observers (LTOs) who were deployed throughout the country on 1st August 2008. An additional 50 Short-term Observers (STOs) will be deployed a few days before the elections.

A delegation of the European Parliament will also be joining the Mission shortly before the elections.

Within 48 hours of the close of the polls, the EU EOM will present to the public a Preliminary Statement on the conduct of the elections. A more detailed report will be published approximately a month later which will also include a number of recommendations.

The Mandate and Objectives of an EU EOM

An EU EOM only deploys to a country on invitation of the relevant state or electoral authorities. The main objectives of an EUEOM are:

- To enhance public confidence in the electoral process;
- To deter electoral fraud
- To strengthen the respect for fundamental freedoms and political rights;
- To undertake a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process in accordance with international standards;

Chief Observer



Michael Cashman

Areas of Assessment

An EU EOM assesses a number of areas of the electoral process as part of its comprehensive observation:

1. The legal framework
2. The work of the National Election Commission
3. Political party and candidate registration
4. Voter registration
5. The election campaign
6. The media environment
7. Voting, counting and tabulation
8. The complaints and appeals procedure

EU Observation Methodology

The methodology of EU EOMs is based on the *Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation*:

- Impartiality and Independence
- Non-interference
- Comprehensive and long-term observation
- Co-operation with the host country
- Openness in findings

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