



**EUROPEAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION
THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
General Elections 2007**

100 more observers join EU Election Observation Mission

NAIROBI, 19 December 2007 – Ninety-four European Union short-term election observers will arrive in Nairobi on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 December for the general elections scheduled to take place on 27 December. Around ten locally recruited short-term observers from EU member state embassies in the capital are also joining the EU election observation mission in the run up to the elections.

They join the core team of 11 election experts based in Nairobi and the 38 long-term observers who have been observing election preparations and the campaign period in all eight of Kenya's provinces since the end of November.

The mission is led by Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, a Member of the European Parliament from Germany. *"The fact that we have almost doubled the number of our short-term observers, from 54 in 2002 to 100 in 2007, shows the importance we attach to these elections,"* Graf Lambsdorff said. *"It means that the mission is now made up of around 150 people from 26 different EU countries, making it the largest international election observation mission in Kenya with the widest coverage."*

After an extensive briefing from the core team in Nairobi, the short-term observers will be deployed throughout Kenya in teams of two. They will attend a regional briefing with the long-term observers already in the field before observing voting, counting and tabulation of results in polling stations around the country on election day.

All EU observers are bound by an internationally accepted code of conduct as well as the Kenyan code of conduct for election observation. This means that they maintain strict neutrality in the course of their work and cannot interfere in any way in the electoral process.

The EU election observation mission will give its preliminary assessment of the elections at a press conference within 48 hours of election day. It will stay in Kenya to observe the period after the elections and publish a more comprehensive, final report in February.

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