



## PRESS RELEASES

# EU deploys an Election Observation Mission to El Salvador

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Following the invitation by the Salvadorian authorities, the European Union is deploying an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to El Salvador to observe the legislative elections, due to take place [on 4 March 2018](#). Reflecting the European Union's long-term commitment to supporting credible, transparent and inclusive elections in the country, the EU has deployed an EOM to El Salvador General Elections in 2009 and followed the 2012 Legislative and Municipal elections and the 2015 Presidential elections.

Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, has appointed Carlos Iturgaiz, Member of the European Parliament, as Chief Observer of the EU Election Observation Mission to Salvador.

High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini stated: "The EU and El Salvador have a long-standing relation based on trust. These elections take place in a challenging context and after the introduction of several reforms which have contributed to important democratic changes in the country. Under the leadership of Chief Observer Iturgaiz, I am confident that the EU EOM will make an important contribution to this electoral process."

Carlos Iturgaiz declared: "I feel honoured to lead the EU Election Observation Mission to El Salvador. These elections are important since, among other issues at stake, they will renew the Legislative Assembly that will designate key members of the country's

institutional architecture. I trust that our observation will provide a meaningful contribution to the electoral and democratic process and, once again, demonstrate our commitment to the Salvadorian people."

The Electoral Observation Mission's core team, consisting of 9 analysts, arrived in San Salvador on 27 January. The team will stay in the country until the completion of the electoral process, as well as prepare a comprehensive final report.

On 4th February, the core team was joined by 28 long-term observers who are deployed across the country.

A further 28 short-term observers will be deployed [on 26th February](#). The EU EOM also looks forward to cooperate with other international and domestic observation missions.

## **Background**

Shortly after the elections day, the mission will issue a preliminary statement of its findings at a press conference in San Salvador. A final report, including recommendations for future electoral processes, will be presented at a later stage to the Salvadorian Government, after the finalization of the electoral process. The EU will continue to work with the Salvadorian authorities on the implementation of the recommendations of its Observation Missions in El Salvador

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