

Press Release

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Council of Europe opens observation mission to monitor Kosovo elections in November

Strasbourg, 05.10.2007 – The Council of Europe has opened an election observation mission for the 17 November Assembly and local elections in Kosovo.

The deployment of the mission follows an invitation from the United Nations Interim Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to lead the international observation effort for the forthcoming elections.

The mission, headed by Giovanni Di Stasi of Italy, a former President of the Council of Europe Congress for Local and Regional Authorities, includes a core team of eight international experts based in Pristina.

On 11 October, following two days of training, around 14 long-term observers from 10 European countries will be deployed throughout Kosovo and the mission's area of responsibility, to closely monitor the electoral process.

Shortly before election day, some 150 short-term observers composed of delegations from the Council of Europe member states and other European institutions will be deployed to monitor the opening of polling stations, voting, counting of ballots, and the tabulation of results at all levels.

The day after the elections, the Election Observation Mission will issue a statement of preliminary findings and conclusions.

The Council of Europe Election Observation Mission and the Council of Europe Secretariat Office in Kosovo operate independently under separate mandates.

For further information:

http://www.coe.int/t/dc/files/events/2007_kosovo

Council of Europe Election Observation Mission in Kosovo

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