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Council of Europe Elections Observation Mission in Kosovo (CEEOM V) Elections in line with international standards but alarmingly low turn-out

Pristina, 18.11.2007 - The 150 short-term observers, including the 29 elected members from the Congress (Council of Europe), the Committee of the Regions (European Union) and the European Parliament, evaluated the voting process in positive terms. In general, both the elections and the electoral process were conducted in line with European and international standards for democratic elections.

Whilst praising these positive aspects, the preliminary statement highlights the alarmingly low turn-out, which sends a strong signal to political leaders. The confirmation of this continuous downward trend, which started in the 2001 elections, reveals a profound dissatisfaction among the population.

Voters from the Kosovo Serb Community have followed appeals not to participate.

Formally, these elections were the responsibility of the Central Election Commission. However, due to the late call, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) was much more involved than formally envisaged. It is clear "that the international community has not met its obligation to contribute to capacity-building in the field of elections", explains the preliminary statement.

The Mission urges all parties and political leaders to respect the results of these elections. In order to regain the trust of its electors and to give a European perspective to Kosovo, elected politicians should vigorously fight corruption and give priority to the enhancement of the social and economic situations for the benefit of all communities living in Kosovo.

For further information

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

Council of Europe Election Observation Mission

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