

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The European Union

and



The Central Election Commission of Kosovo

**Concerning observation of the
2017 Early Legislative Elections**

The European Union and the Central Election Commission of Kosovo,

Considering:

- that the President of Kosovo has invited the European Union to observe the early legislative elections scheduled for 11 June 2017;
- that the European Union, has accepted the invitation to observe the early legislative elections and that an EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) is ready for deployment;
- that the Government of Kosovo is signing with European Union a Memorandum of Understanding containing respective rights and obligations in connection with the above mentioned elections (document attached);

hereby agree on the following arrangements for setting up a European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM):

- The present agreement applies to the early legislative elections scheduled for 11 June 2017.
- The EU EOM and its members will maintain strict impartiality, objectivity and independence in the conduct of their mandate. All EU EOM observers will abide by the Code of Conduct for European Observers (attached). The EU EOM will abide by the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers (attached), which was commemorated at the United Nations in New York in October 2005.
- The Central Election Commission will provide the EOM with any assistance required for the implementation of the mission's mandate, in accordance with the laws in force in Kosovo and the terms of the present agreement.
- In the framework of their observation mandate, the members of the EU EOM will enjoy freedom of movement throughout the country, without the need for prior permission or notification. They will have freedom of access to all political parties, candidates and election officials, as well as representatives from civil society and voters.
- The European Union will inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the number of observers deemed necessary to guarantee a credible observation of the entire electoral process and the names of all EU observers.
- All members of the EU EOM will be accredited by the Central Election Commission of Kosovo without discrimination. Some of the EU EOM observers will be deployed well in advance of Election Day, to allow them to follow administrative preparations as well as the election campaign. Some observers may remain in country to follow the election process until it is completed, including the announcement of official results and the processing of complaints and appeals.

- All members of the EU EOM, including assistants, will receive in a timely manner the prescribed identification issued by the Central Election Commission, proving their accreditation to observe all aspects of the process.
- The Central Election Commission will guarantee to the EU EOM and its members freedom of access to all bodies and meetings of the electoral administration as well as to all relevant information on the electoral process during the whole period of its presence in Kosovo.
- On polling day and thereafter, the Central Election Commission will guarantee the EU EOM, its members, including assistants, freedom of access, at any time, to all polling centres, polling stations and Counting and Results Centre, as well as all bodies of the electoral administration, in order to observe voting and counting procedures, as well as the aggregation, tabulation and transmission of results.
- The EU will nominate a Chief Observer and a Deputy Chief Observer who will lead the EU EOM. The Chief Observer, or in case of absence the Deputy Chief Observer, will be the only representatives authorised to make public comments and statements on the electoral process on behalf of the EU EOM throughout the whole duration of the mission. The Chief Observer will present the final report of the Election Observation Mission to the Government of Kosovo. This will take place between one and three months after Election Day.
- The EU EOM will give to the Central Election Commission a copy of the EU EOM Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions, which will be issued after Election Day, and a copy of the EU EOM Final Report which will be issued some weeks after the declaration of the final results.

For the European Union

For the Central Election Commission

Nataliya APOSTOLOVA

Valdete Daka

Head of EU Office/EU Special
Representative in Kosovo

Chair of the Central Election
Commission

Date: 19 May 2017