ODIHR Election Observation of the 2024 European Parliament Elections



The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has been invited by all the European Union Member States to observe the 6-9 June 2024 elections to the European Parliament (EP). In response, in line with its mandate and based on the findings of a pre-election needs assessment mission, ODIHR is sending a special election assessment mission (SEAM) to these elections.

What is ODIHR election observation?

ODIHR carries out election observation in participating States across the entire OSCE area. Election observation missions assess the extent to which fundamental freedoms are respected in the campaign and the elections are characterized by equality, universality, political pluralism, confidence, transparency and accountability. ODIHR's mandate to observe elections comes from the OSCE commitments outlined in the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document, other international obligations and standards for democratic elections, as well as the national legislation of EU Member States. Since the Office's establishment over 30 years ago, ODIHR has deployed more than 400 missions. ODIHR regularly conducts election observation activities in individual EU Member States and has also previously observed the European Parliament elections.

What will be the scope of the mission?

The format chosen for this mission is tailored to its specific scale and nature, as well as existing resource constraints. The EP elections are effectively 27 different national elections to a supra-national body. They are administered nationally and conducted on the basis of 27 different sets of election rules; there are only a few EU-wide rules that all Member States are obliged to follow.

The mission will observe the entirety of the European Parliament elections and assess the conduct of the elections for their compliance with OSCE commitments and other international obligations and standards for democratic elections, as well as with

national legislation across all 27 EU Member States. Expert teams will visit 20 of the EU Member States in the run-up to election day. Observers will not carry out any comprehensive observation of the voting, counting and tabulation on election day, but mission members will visit a limited number of polling stations on all election days.

The SEAM will follow and assess a number of specific electoral issues:

- Practical implementation of the European and national legal frameworks
- Controls on party and campaign finance
- Monitoring social networks of selected parties, candidates and institutions at the European level
- Voter and candidate registration
- Participation of under-represented groups: women, youth, national minorities, people with disabilities
- Participation of citizen observers and international observers

Who is conducting the mission?

The mission is headed by Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir and consists of seven international experts from seven OSCE states based in Brussels from 15 May, as well as ten regional analysts from ten different states who will be deployed in teams of two across the EU from 20 May. The core team in Brussels are all citizens of non-EU countries.

How will the mission report its observations?

The mission will publish its preliminary findings and conclusions the day after the elections, on 10 June. It will also compile the collective observations from across the Member States into a comprehensive final report, which will contain recommendations to the authorities, both regional and national. These reports are intended to help participating States and EU institutions improve their electoral processes for the benefit of their citizens. The constructive recommendations are made in the spirit of working towards the fulfilment of shared OSCE commitments.







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