



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EuropeAid Co-operation Office

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NOTE TO THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS STATES

**CALL FOR CANDIDATURES FOR LONG TERM AND SHORT TERM OBSERVERS
FOR THE ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION (EOM) TO GUINEA BISSAU
SCHEDULED FOR 16 NOVEMBER 2008**

Following the approval by Commissioner Mrs Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the European Commission wishes to announce to the Presidency and the Member States the launching of the administrative procedures in order to ensure the recruitment of the long term and short term observers for an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Guinea Bissau for the Legislative Elections scheduled to take place on 16 November 2008.

The Commission wishes to begin the procedures for recruitment of:

- 20 LTOs (Long Term Observers) for duration of 45 days, travel included (indicative deployment dates: **17 October till 30 November 2008**)
- 24 STOs (Short Term Observers) for duration of 15 days, travel included (indicative deployment dates: **07 November till 21 November 2008**).

In order to ensure the recruitment of the observers and to respect the tentative dates of the deployment plan considered, the European Commission invites the Member States to submit its candidates via the ROSTER at the latest by **17 September 2008 – 24h00**.

- 2 candidates for the position of Long Term Observer (LTO)
- 2 candidates for the position of Short Term Observers (STO)

Candidate Profile:

• **Language skills:**

Portuguese: good Portuguese skills in speaking and understanding

English: good English skills will be a prerequisite.

French: knowledge of French would be an asset (Guinea-Bissau is member of the Francophone).

- Previous working experience in Africa would be a prerequisite (especially for the LTOs).
- Previous electoral observation experience and/or other relevant experience including electoral training.

LTOs: minimum 2 observation missions including 1 EU EOM missions;

STOs: minimum 1 observation mission or relevant electoral training (preferably by NEEDS)

- **Computer literate:** (Microsoft office access, excel, word, acrobat writer...) and Internet, Sat phone, HF, VHF, GPS.
- **Excellent physical conditions and good health** all observers must be in very good health. Observers with arterial pressure, or/and cardiac insufficient, or/and diabetic treatment, or/and chest engine will not be accepted (a proof of good health certification is required). Such strict measures are reinforced by the limited access to medical facilities. The medical facilities are limited to the basic medical services. In the event of serious illnesses or injuries, medical evacuation will be required to Dakar or directly to Europe.
- **It is expected that all the observers have received vaccine against: Polio, Diphtheria and Tetanus, Hepatitis A & B, Typhoid, Yellow Fever, Measles** (if not contracted during youth).
- **Malaria prophylaxis:** please note that **malaria** is very common and the risk of infection for the observers is very likely (reimbursed upon presentation of original invoices).
- **Cholera:** cholera epidemic was discovered in the South of the country along the border with Guinea Conakry during the conduct of the ExM.
- **Living conditions:** in general, the living conditions outside the capitals is very basic as far as food, water and electricity is concerned – shortage of running water and electricity being the common problems outside of Bissau if not in the capital itself. Observers should be willing to accept harsh living conditions when deploying in Guinea-Bissau.
- **Full flexibility** is required from the candidates in terms of mission timetable in the event of changes that might occur.

The Commission will proceed to the selection of the observers on the basis of criterion established in the Council Decision “**EU Guides for the Selection of the electoral observers**” **Council Decision 8728/99 - PESC 165 - COHOM 4** and will inform the Member States of the final list of the selected observers.

The Commission will use for the Mission the data already exist in the ROSTER system: http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/observer/index_en.htm.

The candidatures sent by email will not be taken into account

The Commission invites the Member States to only propose candidates:

- a) Certified of their full availability to be committed for the entire period of the mission;
- b) We would also like to request the Member States to inform pre-selected observers to update their personal data in the ROSTER before the submission of their candidatures, and to request them to update beforehand any vaccinations and treatments necessary for the requirements.
- c) To inform the observers to follow respectfully the instructions on the code of conduct and on safety; to be given at the time of the briefing. The observers should also be informed by the Member States of the security instructions as published on the Web sites of the Ministries and Embassies.

Olivier Ruyssen
Head of Sector Elections

Original: M. Martyn PENINGTON,
Copies: M. Cristiano DALLA VALENTINA
M. Rolf TIMANS, Ms. Delphine SKOWRON, Mr. Amador SANCHEZ RICO