

# EU deploys Election Observation Mission to Kosovo

After the municipal elections in 2013 and the parliamentary elections in 2014, this is the third time the EU deploys a fully-fledged Election Observation Mission to Kosovo, reflecting the EU's commitment to supporting credible, transparent and inclusive elections in the broader framework of Kosovo's reform process.

Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, has appointed Mr Alojz Peterle, Member of the European Parliament, as Chief Observer.

The High Representative stated: *"The upcoming early legislative elections on 11 June will be a new opportunity for the citizens of Kosovo to express their political will. Under the leadership of Chief Observer Mr Peterle, I am confident that the European Union Election Observation Mission will provide an important contribution to the further strengthening of Kosovo's democratic institutions. The deployment of this Election Observation Mission confirms the EU's support for Kosovo's democratic governance. We expect all political parties, leaders and institutions of Kosovo to ensure that these important elections, including the election campaign, are conducted in line with European democratic standards".*

The Chief Observer, Mr Peterle, declared: *"I am deeply honoured to lead the Election Observation Mission to Kosovo. I trust all stakeholders will contribute to fully ensure that the upcoming elections will be peaceful, transparent and inclusive."*

The Election Observation Mission started its deployment on 16 May. A Core Team of seven EU election analysts is now in Kosovo and will stay in the country until the completion of the electoral process to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process. As from 26 May the Core Team will be joined by 16 long-term observers who will be deployed across Kosovo, and later on for the election week on 7 June by 32 additional short-term observers. A delegation of the European Parliament and diplomats from EU Member States accredited to Kosovo will also reinforce the mission on the Election Day.

Shortly after the Election Day, the mission will issue a preliminary statement of its findings at a press conference in Pristina. A final report, including recommendations for future electoral processes, will be presented at a later stage, after the finalisation of the entire electoral process.

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# New Project Team for Spectrum Issues

□New Project Team FM56

The Agency will host on 27-28 March the kick off meeting of the new Project Team FM56 for spectrum issues related to railway applications, following the decision of the European Communication Committee to establish this group to assess the needs of the railways in terms of Radio Spectrum.

find [here more information on agenda and registration!](#)

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## Announcement: 55th ETCR Summer Course 3-14 July 2017, Bruges, Belgium

□From 3-14 July 2017 the European Union Agency for Railways is co-organising with the European Training Centre for Railways (ETCR) and the College of Europe in Bruges the 55 ETCR Summer Course.

Participants will get the unique opportunity to meet the decision-makers and opinion leaders of EU rail politics and learn about the elements of the EU railway regulatory framework and its impact on rail business perspectives. They can build a network of international colleagues and confront the challenges they are working on at home with the solutions others have given to the same issues in the various European countries.

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