

Terms of Reference for the Deputy Chief Observer of the EU EOM to Lebanon 2026

Parliamentary elections, 10 May 2026 (please, note that this date might be postponed)

The present terms of reference offer selection criteria for the Deputy Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission to Lebanon 2026. In addition to the Chief Observer and Deputy Chief Observer, the Core Team is composed of 9 experts, whose individual terms of reference are outlined in the relevant Core Team terms of reference, published separately.

It is important to note that Lebanese laws prohibit the entry of individuals with Israeli nationality or those holding passports with Israeli entry stamps.

Preliminary remarks

- European Union election observation missions (EU EOMs) are independent in their findings and conclusions, and must, at all times, adhere to the EU methodology for election observation in both, political/electoral and implementation/security matters, as outlined in the *Handbook for European Union Election Observation*.¹ EU EOMs must follow practical guidelines as specified by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (EC-FPI).
- All EU EOM members must follow the EU Code of Conduct for Election Observation and its Ethical Aspects, as well as adhere to the UN Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election observers.²
- Due to the evolving context of elections, the following terms of reference offer a general overview of the requested job profile that is potentially subject to changes. The final version including the detailed description of the final profile and responsibilities of the DCO will be provided in the contract the DCO will be signing with the European Commission in her/his quality of Special Advisor to the European Commission.³

The working and reporting language of the EU EOM to Lebanon will be English.

CHIEF OBSERVER (CO)

The CO has the overall responsibility for the EU EOM. S/he is appointed directly by the High Representative/Vice President (HR/VP). The CO's duties, tasks and responsibilities are detailed in the annex attached to her/his contract.

DEPUTY CHIEF OBSERVER (DCO)

As a Special Adviser to the HR/VP, the role of the DCO is to assist the Chief Observer in the conduct of the EOM and in managing all members of the EU EOM. The DCO will cooperate and

¹ fpi.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2025-12/Handbook_EU_EOMs_4th_2025_EN_web_bookmarks.pdf

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/declaration-principles-international-election-observation_en

³ According to the dispositions set out in the Commission implementing decision of 26.07.2024 adopting the Implementing Arrangements for Election Observation Missions, C(2024) 5172 repealing and replacing Commission Implementing Decision C(2014)7782

communicate closely with the Implementing Partner, so that both entities can operate smoothly and jointly in line with the overall objective of the EU EOM. It is the DCO's responsibility to ensure that all EU EOM members cooperate in the spirit of collegiality. The DCO also replaces the Chief Observer whenever absent, including in the diplomatic and media/social media contacts, essential to the functioning of the EOM. In the absence of the CO, the DCO will act as principal spokesperson for the mission. The DCO will be present in the field during the full duration of the mission, as well as its preparatory and winding-down phases.

The DCO acts as the principal advisor to the CO. Under the authority of the CO, the DCO has management responsibility for the political, analytical, methodological and outreach aspects of the EU EOM. The Implementing Partner will discuss with the DCO the operational, security and administrative measures that need to be taken as regards the overall safety of the EU EOM, bearing in mind that the actual election observation is the key aim of the EU EOM. The DCO is also responsible for the coordination of all EU EOM member activities, including vis-à-vis staff made available by the Implementing Partner.

The DCO will keep the CO and EEAS (POL.MULTILATERAL.2) and European Commission (FPI.6) regularly informed about all aspects of the EU EOM.

S/he will:

Manage political and methodological tasks:

1. Ensure that the EU EOM adheres to the EU methodology for election observation, as outlined in the "Handbook for European Union Election Observation" and accompanying guidelines, as well as to the "Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers", commemorated at the United Nations in October 2005. In particular, the DCO ensures that the EOM assesses the conduct of the election process in accordance with host country's national laws, international and regional obligations and commitments for democratic elections.
2. Ensure that the EU EOM adheres to the Administrative Arrangement signed by the Delegation of the European Union with the government of host country and the host country's Electoral Managing Body (Supervisory Commission for Elections, SCE).
3. Understand the electoral framework and oversee identification of the main electoral and political issues.
4. Maintain regular communication and, when relevant, ensure co-ordination with domestic and international organisations involved in observing/monitoring the electoral process.
5. Meet regularly with election administration, political party leaders, political contestants, international organisations, government departments, other relevant state institutions and NGOs. Maintain regular contact with the EU Delegation and EU Member States in the host country.
6. Ensure gender mainstreaming and inclusion of EOM relevant political analysis in EU EOM reports, including in particular the assessment of political rights.
7. Inform the EEAS and FPI on important developments in between reporting cycles.
8. Ensure coordination with other International Observation organisations and with relevant domestic observation organisations.
9. Coordinate the preparation of interim reports on the election process and EU EOM activities, based on contributions from the Core Team and LTOs, using the standard format/template

provided by EEAS and FPI. EEAS and FPI must be given an opportunity, in sufficient time (usually 48 hours), to provide comments on these reports. Final approval lies with the CO.

10. Coordinate the preparation of the EU EOM preliminary statement, based on the standard format/template provided by EEAS and FPI, which should be approved by the CO. The EEAS and FPI must be given an opportunity, in sufficient time (minimum one week before e-day for the first draft), to provide comments on the preliminary statement, which should be carefully considered before it is finalised. Final approval lies with the CO.
11. Coordinate, draft and edit the final report to be submitted by the Core Team according to the standard format/template provided and within the schedule agreed with EEAS and FPI. The DCO will also ensure that the state of play of the implementation of recommendations from the previous EOM (when applicable) is completed. The draft final report, including draft recommendations, should be made available at least 24h prior to the debriefing of the EU EOM upon its return. EEAS and FPI must be given an opportunity (over a one-week period) to provide comments on the draft final report, which should be considered by the DCO before it is finalised. Final approval lies with the CO. The date for the final report delivery should be agreed during the debriefing of the EU EOM and should, where possible, be within 6 weeks of Core Team departure from the country of observation.
12. Undertake a return visit for an additional maximum ten days (not including traveling time) after the closure of the EU EOM. S/he will provide EEAS and FPI with a Mission report on the Return Visit and roundtable and information on the work undertaken with the EU Delegation on the preparation of the Plan for the Follow-up of the EU EOM recommendations (guidelines on reporting and templates will be provided).
13. Ensure that all reporting is of highest standard, both in terms of content and language, and based on EU EOM Core Team members' and observers' findings. A reporting and style guide for the Preliminary Statement and reports (including templates) will be provided during the pre-deployment briefing.
14. When relevant, ensure reliability and quality of the translation of the reports into other working languages of the mission.

Manage operational tasks:

1. In the absence of the CO, assume the position of Acting CO and lead daily EU EOM activities, overlooking the work of the Core Team, Observers and Implementing Partner and providing guidance to their daily work.
2. Ensure the high visibility of the mission, in close cooperation with the Press and Outreach Officer and the rest of the Core Team, and replacing the CO in visibility events when necessary. Provide EEAS and European Commission Services with visibility material (videos, photos, tweets, including website content, etc) that can be used at EEAS headquarters level to enhance the visibility of the mission outside the country where the EU EOM is deployed.
3. Oversee the work of all Core Team members, in particular:
 - a. Organise effective coordination and regular team meetings among Core Team members and with Implementing Partner participation;
 - b. Oversee the preparation of the deployment plan prepared by the Observer Coordinator and subsequent deployment of observers; ensure that the deployment plan be communicated to the Implementing Partner sufficiently in advance in order to allow for all logistical and security measures to be taken in a timely manner;

- c. Oversee preparation and conduct of briefing and training sessions for observers;
- d. Oversee preparation of briefing materials and report forms for observers ensuring that observers are briefed on the EU, the EU foreign policy and in particular election support instruments;
- e. Oversee media and social media relations and public outreach activities, including website and social media content.

4. Determine Core Team rules of procedure, which should include:

- a. Rules for Core Team (meetings and other necessary rules) to ensure the effective flow of information among Core Team members and vis-à-vis observers (enhancing the need to ensure the flow of information is well coordinated);
- b. Rules for interfacing with national authorities, election stakeholders (level of contacts, responsibilities etc.);
- c. Internal deadlines for preparing weekly and preliminary reports, taking into account reporting guidelines;
- d. Rules for establishing an operational plan for election day, ensuring smooth data flow to and from observers;
- e. Rules for archiving main documents (what kind of information received must be recorded or which prepared/received documents must be retained);
- f. Rules for daily coordination with the Implementing Partner and its staff.
- g. Rules for the CT and observers' contacts with media and use of social media during the mission.

5. Oversee the methodological and operational integration of locally recruited diplomatic STOs and of the European Parliament delegation into the EU EOM workflow.

6. Ensure coordination with the Implementing Partner (IP)

- a. Organise effective coordination and regular team meetings between Core Team members and the IP;
- b. Ensure daily briefings with IP on logistic and security aspects;
- c. Address to the IP the day-to-day logistic needs for the proper conduct of the mission, and oversee its delivery according to the terms of contract;
- d. Address to the IP the day-to-day appropriate security needs to ensure its proper functioning.
- e. Establish proper channels and procedures for communication of emergency situations with the IP;
- f. Keep up to date with the preparation of logistic aspects by the IP (transport, accommodation, working facilities etc.);
- g. In cooperation with the Observer Coordinator, liaise with the IP logistics and security experts on deployment plan and movements of the observers;
- h. Attend the preparation of security/behavioural training tasked to the IP by the EC prior to observer deployment;

7. Ensure that all mission members are fully aware of the EU EOM Code of Conduct and its Guidelines on the Ethical Aspects and the consequence of failing to abide by them. The DCO presents the guidelines as a separate point in the briefings of observers (long term and short

term observers) and appoints the two Core Team focal points for addressing any complaints. The guidelines are also distributed to all observers and ongoing missions are requested to emphasise the point on harassment several times throughout the mission. In case any problem arises (eg. harassment allegations, inappropriate behaviour) immediately inform FPI/EEAS.

8. Ensure that all EU EOM members are fully aware of the applicable data protection framework and any personal data received during an EU EOM is handled in line with i) Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, ii) the Privacy Statement on the Implementation of the European Union Election Observation Missions as well as iii) the clauses included in the letter of assignment.
9. Oversee the observer evaluation process. Ensure that this is prepared in co-ordination with all Core Team members; co-sign the evaluations and certificates for observers together with the Observer Coordinator. Ensure that evaluations follow COM guidelines. Oversee the inclusion of evaluations in the EU EOM Roster by the Coordinator (the Observer Coordinator will sign a letter of confidentiality on the information obtained in the Roster).
10. Provide record of performance of the Core Team experts in collaboration with the CO.
11. Under CO's responsibility, ensure that all measures are taken to ensure the security of EU EOM members. Inform European Commission Services and the EEAS in a timely manner about all security issues. Decisions related to security must be taken in a timely manner under CO responsibility, in co-ordination with the Implementing Partner, in charge of the security and logistical aspects of the mission, and in consultation with European Commission services. Plan a security committee and possible responses to the type of incidents that might arise in the country. Convene the security committee if necessitated. In case of disagreement between the DCO (under the authority of the CO) and the Implementing Partner, the DCO (under the authority of the CO) and the Project Manager in country of the Implementing Partner shall discuss the matter in order to reach an agreement. In case no agreement can be found, the DCO and/or the Implementing Partner shall refer the matter to the European Commission (FPI.6), and inform the EEAS, and the European Commission shall contact the Implementing Partner in order to find a mutual agreement.
12. Ensure a good working relationship within the CT, the IP and the locally recruited staff. In case of the disagreement between any member of the EU EOM, the DCO needs to act as a moderator and find best possible solution in the view of the mission's objectives.
13. Provide a briefing on the mission's modus operandi (objectives, rules of procedures, staff rights and duties, and the code of conduct including its ethical guidelines) for locally recruited staff.
14. Ensure the smooth and timely circulation of information to FPI and EEAS services.
15. Ensure that any requested modification to the terms of reference impacting the budget is notified in due time to the Implementing Partner and European Commission services for final approval by the relevant European Commission services.
16. Provide the European Commission with complete LTO evaluations, as well as LTO End of Mission reports, both in line with Commission guidelines. Provide the Commission with a comprehensive synthesis of all evaluations, certificates and end of mission reports before closure of the mission.
17. Coordinate and draft, with the support of the Observer Coordinator and with the contribution of other analysts, and based on assessments by the observers, the internal final report, including feedback on individual terms of reference for each analyst and for observers, modus operandi

of the mission, lessons learnt and good practices, and suggestions for methodological improvements and information on possible areas of technical assistance. The final internal report should be approved by the CO and submitted to the European Commission and EEAS services prior to the debriefing.

18. Ensure, in coordination with the Core Team and the Implementing Partner, the effective closure of the mission, including the archiving of main documents and donation of equipment in collaboration with the EU Delegation.
19. Perform any other duty required by the Chief Observer or FPI/EEAS services for the good functioning of the EU EOM.
20. Be available for the briefings and debriefings of the missions, and the return visit and roundtable.
