



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
FOREIGN POLICY INSTRUMENTS SERVICE

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND ELECTION OBSERVATION

Brussels, 5 September 2011

FPIS4/cb D(2011)

NOTE TO THE MEMBER STATES

CALL FOR CANDIDATURES FOR LONG TERM AND SHORT TERM OBSERVERS

FOR AN ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION (EU EOM)

NICARAGUA – PRESIDENTIAL, LEGISLATIVE AND PARLACEN ELECTIONS, 6 NOVEMBER 2011

AND POSSIBLE SECOND ROUND FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, TO TAKE PLACE AT THE LATEST ON 21 DECEMBER 2011

Further to the final decision of the High Representative/Vice President of Commission to deploy a European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Nicaragua, the European Commission wishes to initiate the selection procedure for the EOM members to observe the forthcoming Presidential, Legislative and PARLACEN Elections scheduled to take place on 6 November 2011, and a possible second round of the Presidential elections to take place no later than 45 days after the first round.

The European Commission wishes to begin the procedures for recruitment of:

1. 26 LTOs (LONG TERM OBSERVERS). INDICATIVE AVAILABILITY DATES:

- § Tentative deployment dates: **from 19 October to 3 January 2012 (in the event of a second round scheduled on 21 December)** including travel days;
- § The pre-deployment training and for LTOs is tentatively scheduled on 20 October, the Core Team and SP briefing is tentatively scheduled on 22-23 October 2011.

2. 40 STOs (SHORT TERM OBSERVERS). INDICATIVE AVAILABILITY DATES:

- § Tentative deployment dates: **from 28 October to 12 November 2011** including travel days and **16 December to 27 December (should the possible second round take place on 21 December)** ;
- § The pre-deployment training and Core Team briefing for STOs is tentatively scheduled on 29 October 2011, the Core Team and SP briefing is tentatively scheduled on 31 October – 1 November 2011.

More information on the exact dates of the training session as well as final decision on the exact dates of deployment will be communicated to selected observers at a later stage.

In order to ensure the recruitment of the observers, the European Commission invites the Member States to submit candidates' names via the ROSTER, at the latest **by 18 September 2011 (at midnight)**.

- **Up to 3** candidates for the position of Long Term Observers (LTOs)

- **Up to 5** candidates for the position of Short Term Observers (STOs)

Member states should ensure a fair balance regarding the gender and the professional background of shortlisted candidates.

3. CANDIDATE PROFILE

Applicants' references and professional experience might be checked and language proficiency in Spanish tested through phone interviews by European Commission officials during the selection process.

1. Language proficiency: good written and spoken proficiency in Spanish and English (level 3 = fluent) is a must.
2. Previous experience in Nicaragua and/or in the region is an asset.
3. Previous electoral observation experience and/or other relevant experience including electoral training, technical assistance or experience in the region in relevant fields:
 - § LTOs: minimum one (1) observation mission as an observer or core team member (this may include EOMs organised by other organisations).
 - § STOs: minimum one (1) observation mission as an observer or core team member (this may include EOMs organised by other organisations) or relevant electoral training (preferably by NEEDS) or relevant previous work experience.

A limited number of STO positions will be reserved for newcomers with relevant skills. Member States are invited to propose one STO without experience.

4. Previous experience of work as a civilian in a large scale international mission or in a human rights monitoring mission is an asset.
5. Demonstrated commitment to democracy and human rights.
6. Computer and IT (Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Access, Acrobat writer, Outlook) and internet browser and web mail software. Familiarity with use of Satellite phones, GPS, BGAN.
7. Excellent physical conditions and good health, allowing for long working hours and ability to perform potential demanding physical efforts. Candidates should consult their government's health advisories. Successful candidates will be requested by the Service Provider to provide a recent (within the last six months) Fit-To-Work certificate proving the conditions of good health of the candidate and an Electrocardiogram (ECG).
8. Living conditions: observers should be willing to accept harsh living conditions when deployed in Nicaragua, including lack of power or water supply and poor road condition in certain areas.
9. Full flexibility is required from the candidates in terms of mission timetable in case changes and delays might occur.

4. SELECTION OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES AND INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO SHORTLISTED OBSERVERS

1. The Commission will proceed with the selection of the observers in the framework of the criteria outlined in the European Union 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.

Tentative date by which the Commission hopes to inform MS and selected/non-selected **LTO**

23 September 2011

Tentative date by which the Commission hopes to inform MS and selected/non-selected **STO**

23 September 2011

2. Previous evaluations during EU EOMs and NEEDS training sessions will also be taken into account.
3. The Commission will use for the Mission the data already existing in the ROSTER system: <http://www.eueom.eu/how-to-become-an-eu-observer-/election-roster>. **Applications sent by email will not be taken into account.**

5. THE COMMISSION INVITES THE MEMBER STATES:

- to only propose candidates certifying their full availability for the entire period of the mission;
- to ensure an appropriate balance between the observers' past professional experiences (various types of public or civilian background);
- to inform pre-selected observers to update their personal data in the ROSTER before the submission of their candidatures. For the entire selection process and the preparations for fielding, the Commission will only take into consideration the data as entered in the CV in the Roster (departure airport, passport data, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, etc.). Should a CV not include all the required information, the applicant will be rejected. Further communication by the candidate or (like for example new departure airport, changed e-mail, etc.) shall not be taken into consideration.
- to rank in each category all shortlisted observers by order of suggested preference;
- to inform the observers of the information and terms of reference detailed in the annex to the present Note (in particular regarding deployment dates, per diem and compensatory allowance, if applicable);
- to inform the observers that Spanish proficiency might be tested through phone interviews by European Commission officials during the selection process.
- to inform the observers to follow respectfully and at any time during their assignment as observers the EU code of conduct for election observer as well as the European Commission and EU EOM Core Team and Service Provider instructions, in particular security and safety instructions, upon deployment and throughout the mission.

Failure to follow the code of conduct (attached) and instructions may result in an anticipated termination of the observer's assignment, immediate repatriation to the place of residence and non-recommendation for future EU EOMs

- to inform observers of the security instructions and health precautions and requirements as published on the websites of their respective Ministries and Embassies. More information on health precautions and requirements will be communicated by the service provider to selected candidates at a later stage.

[Signed]

Oliver Nette

Acting Head of Unit FPI 4

Annex:

§ Observers' recruitment Information and terms of reference

CC: Mr. Margue, Mr. Nette, Ms. Bougrine, Mr. Huidobro (FPIS)

Ms. Wasilewska, Ms. Huberlant, Ms. Maugain (EEAS)