



EUROPEAN UNION



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PRESSE 295

**Declaration by the High Representative Catherine Ashton
on behalf of the European Union on the publication
of the Final Report of the EU Election Observation Mission
to Ethiopia 2010**

The European Union thanks the EU Electoral Observation Mission (EU EOM) for providing an impartial and independent evaluation of the electoral process in Ethiopia, and takes note of the assessment and recommendations issued in its final report.

The European Union regrets that it has not been possible to agree on a presentation of the final report by the Chief Observer, Mr Thijs Berman, to the Ethiopian government in Addis Ababa in line with normal practice for EU Election Observation Missions.

Following the publication of the final report, the European Union invites the Government of Ethiopia to draw on the report and consider carefully its recommendations.

The European Union attaches great importance to the promotion of human rights, democratic governance and the rule of law and will continue its dialogue on these shared values with Ethiopia.

P R E S S

The European Union reiterates its willingness to continue to support the Ethiopian objectives of poverty eradication, economic and social development as set out in the National Growth and Transformation Plan.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Iceland[†], the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

[†] Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.
