



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**DELEGATION TO OBSERVE THE
GUBERNATORIAL AND STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS
(14 April)**

**AND THE PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE
ELECTIONS
(21 April)**

IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

(12 April - 23 April 2007)

**Report by
Mr John ATTARD-MONTALTO and Mr Vittorio AGNOLETTI,
Co-Chairs of the delegation
8 May 2007**

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Introduction

Following the receipt of an invitation addressed to the European Union on 17 May 2006 by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Conference of Presidents authorised on 8 March 2007 "the sending of an election observation mission to the general elections in Nigeria both on 14 April 2007 (gubernatorial and state assembly elections) and on 21 April 2007 (parliamentary and presidential elections). The list of delegation Members is attached in Annex A.

At the invitation of the Nigerian authorities, the European Union set up an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to observe these elections. As was the case for the EU EOM for the observation of general elections in 2003 in Nigeria, this EOM was led by Mr Max van den Berg, MEP. The EU thus deployed about 150 long term and short term observers over the whole territory of Nigeria. In accordance with regular practice in these situations, the European Parliament delegation and the EU EOM worked in close cooperation.

The delegation met two times before leaving for Nigeria. At its first meeting on 28 March, it was decided as none of the Members of the delegation would be able to stay in Nigeria for the whole mission, the delegation would split in two groups: Mr John Attard-Montalto, Mr Libor Roucek and Mr Toomas Savi would take part in the first part of the mission (for the Gubernatorial and National Assembly elections - 14 April) and Mr Vittorio Agnoletto, Mr Filip Kaczmarek and Mr Edward McMillan-Scott would take part in the second part (the Presidential and Parliamentary elections - 21 April). Under these circumstances Members decided that the chairmanship of the delegation will be shared between Mr John Attard-Montalto and Mr Vittorio Agnoletto. Both Members were elected Co-Chairs by acclamation.

At this meeting, the Members had an exchange of views with Mr van den Berg, Chief Observer, who explained the background of the elections, and particularly the case of the Vice-President Abubakar who could not run in the elections because of accusations of corruption and was waiting for a Court decision on the issue at that specific time. Mr van den Berg also detailed the deployment of the EU EOM in the country. The delegation further discussed the programme and the deployment.

At its second meeting, on 11 April, the delegation agreed on the programme and the deployment for the election day. At the same time the delegation held an exchange of views with the representatives of the European Commission on the political situation of the country and the activities of the EU EOM on the spot.

Political context

The elections organised in April 2007 in Nigeria were the third to take place since the end of the military dictatorship in 1998. For the first time since the independence they created the opportunity to see power transferred from one civilian President to another. Olesgun Obasanjo, in office since 1999, was not willing to leave the Presidency. After his failed attempt to run for a third mandate, he supported the candidature of Katsina governor Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, a pale political figure but officially "clean" of corruption, and he hoped to retain some behind-the-scenes influence. He should indeed chair the PDP's Board of Trustees, which could be an

important body for resolving disputes within the party and be responsible for the economic policy in the name of the (PDP) government. President Obasanjo wanted above all to maintain his economic heritage and ensure that the reforms he undertook would be completed. Therefore it is said that the indictment for corruption of Vice President Atiku Abubakar was politically motivated. A founding member of the PDP, Vice-President Atiku Abubakar was suspended from the party after he was accused of diverting \$125m to personal businesses. Mr Abubakar denied the accusation but his bitter feud with President Obasanjo led to him becoming the candidate of the opposition Action Congress (AC). He was later disqualified by the Electoral Commission and was only authorised to be a candidate a few days before the elections after a ruling by the Supreme Court.

This “sortie de scène” may affect the international image of Olesegun Obasanjo who played an essential role the past few years in Africa and placed Nigeria on the map. His fight against corruption, initially seen as a positive action an, could be overestimated as it was used politically during the electoral campaign. Yet the President got some results at federal level, with the state level remaining extremely corrupted.

The last 2003 election was characterised by rigging. Unfortunately the 2007 poll was not better. The so-called Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) proved to be far from independent. The lack of preparation seems to be the result of a political will to avoid Nigerian people making their own choice. Obviously the situation is not better than in 2003.

**THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OBSERVATION MISSION FOR THE
ELECTIONS OF THE STATE GOVERNORS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE
STATE ASSEMBLIES**

14.04.2007

Election observation mission 12-23 April 2007

**Report of the Co-Chairman of the delegation for election observation
in Nigeria, Mr John ATTARD-MONTALTO**

Programme of the observation mission (the programme is annexed to the report)

Thursday, 12 April

**Meeting with Mr Max VAN DEN BERG,
Chief Observer of the EU EOM**

Mr Max van den Berg welcomed the Members of the European Parliament delegation and explained the background of the elections as well as the activities of the EU EOM in this context. The Chief Observer underlined the important role that the Independent National Electoral Commission was to play in these elections. The main responsibilities of INEC are to organise both elections (14 and 21 April), to register the political parties and candidates, to register the voters, monitor the political campaign and to develop voters' education activities. Mr van den Berg underlined

that INEC was not cooperative during the electoral process with the national and international observers.

Mr van den Berg added that these elections are more competitive than the 2003 elections, due to the fact that the incumbent President and 25 out of 36 Governors, for example, were concluding their second term in office and therefore not allowed to run again for the same position. Moreover, 50 political parties had been registered and 25 of them had nominated a presidential candidate.

However the Chief Observer reminded members that the EU EOM 2003 (that he conducted) concluded that the elections were marred by serious irregularities and fraud and that the minimum standards for democratic elections were not met.

The Chief Observer stressed that civil society in Nigeria is very active in connection with the electoral process and that in this context a continuous commitment is expected from the local NGOs side. At the same time, amongst the positive findings of the EU EOM up to present was the vibrant and reliable media, enjoying generally freedom of expression in private and state owned sphere. However the EU EOM took note of some cases where media outlets and journalists were attacked or harassed.

EU EOM Core Team briefing

During the briefing, the following issues were highlighted:

The 2007 elections in Nigeria are a crucial moment for the democratic development of the country. They mark the first time one elected leader succeeds another and gives the opportunity for a first peaceful transfer from a civil government to another. However the 2007 elections are a reminder of the country's history of electoral fraud and past elections that were often associated with political tension, crisis and even violence.

With regard to Atiku Abubakar's case, it has been underlined that in a statement released by INEC, it was noted that Atiku's name was missing because he was on a list of officials indicted for corruption by a panel set up by the ruling government (the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission). This list is seen by many as a tool to weed out opponents of the PDP who may have a high popularity in the elections. However, INEC disqualified Atiku even though there was a court judgement which states that INEC does not have the power to disqualify candidates. Atiku went to court on this matter, and the judgement of the Supreme Court was to be expected soon on this subject. However, the days of public holidays granted by the government in the eve of the gubernatorial elections is delaying all processes in tribunals.

INEC registered almost 61 million voters, which represent 44% of the population of the country. According to INEC, these voters would be shared between 120,000 Polling stations with a maximum of 750 voters each. For each of the 120,000 polling stations three ad hoc staff are deployed: one Presiding Officer and two Assistant Presiding Officers. The voting days will open at 8am and close at 3pm. The results will be transferred to 8,813 Ward Collation Centres and afterwards transmitted to 768 Local Government Councils. The results will be centralised at the INEC State Offices and then the INEC central office.

The 2007 elections are budgeted with 350 million Euros of which 10% were provided by international partners (European Commission, CIDA, UNDP are supporting these elections through a joint donor basket fund; IFES and USAID are also funding the process).

Meeting with IFES representatives
Mr Rudolf ELBLING, Country Director
Mr Jide OJO, Senior Programme Officer

IFES is a non profit election assistance organization that works to provide countries with the technical advice and tools they need to run democratic elections. IFES representatives worked directly to offer support, training and advice to INEC officials. Their conclusion is that INEC is very weak viewed from a managerial perspective and also not transparent with regard to the preparation process and reluctant to embrace IFES training initiatives.

Mr Elbling stressed that the image given by the forthcoming elections will be a mixed one: there are chances to have well organised elections in some regions of the country, but also very disappointing ones in others.

Mr Ojo highlighted that in order to have credible elections, a necessary pre-condition is to have the political will of the government in this sense. In his opinion, such a will is lacking in Nigeria, and he brought as an argument in this sense the public holidays declared at these times (after the Easter break) by the Government, whilst important judgements are ongoing in tribunals.

Meeting with Princess ADEDYIN,
Action Congress, Head of Political Department for the campaign of Atiku
Abubakar

Princess Adediyin underlined that INEC has no intention of being fair in this electoral exercise. At the same time the Government does not want “trouble free elections”. They are not ready to leave their offices, following the elections, added Princess Adediyin. Commissioners in INEC that were friendly with the opposition have been removed from their positions. In case of commissioners that were not “cooperative with the government” they were moved from one state to another.

However under these circumstances, the permanent approach of Mr Abubakar was to bring his case in courts and did not choose to instigate violence on this matter, underlined Princes Adediyin.

Friday, 13 April

Meeting with Mr Robert VAN DER MEULEN,
Head of the Delegation of the European Commission

The members of the delegation had an exchange of views with Mr van der Meulen on the political situation of the country and the activities of the EC Delegation in this context. The challenges of these elections (the transfer from a civil government to another civil government through a democratic process, the Atiku Abubakar case, the work of INEC) were discussed. Mr van der Meulen underlined that Niger Delta is a crucial territory that has a heavy influence on the destiny of Nigeria firstly from an

economic perspective that then triggers political and security aspects. Under these circumstances it is not in the interest of Nigeria that the Niger Delta would be falling into civil war, added the Head of the EC Delegation.

Mr van der Meulen stressed that under these circumstances the EU could play a supporting role in two important areas: (i) good governance and (ii) agriculture. The EU contribution in terms of financial support to the country is not large compared to the country's own revenues from the oil sector. Therefore the EU should invest in the areas where Nigeria really needs help, and which are the ones mentioned above, in which the transfer of knowledge is indeed necessary.

Meeting with domestic observers

Organisations represented: TMG, JPDC, and Muslim League for Accountability

The representatives of civil society underlined that INEC did not provide a clear timetable for the accreditation of domestic observers. INEC actually accredited the national observers networks at the last minute and therefore most domestic observers would probably not be able to have accreditation materials (accreditation cards, visibility materials). Moreover INEC asked for each observer to go personally to the INEC state headquarters to take his/her accreditation in person, which is difficult to do. The TMG representative underlined for example that in only 3 states out of 33 this process is almost final.

The national observers stressed that the different networks that they represent would try to cooperate between themselves with regard to observation at the national level, they would permanently exchange data concerning their findings and they would also plan to draft a joint observation report at the end of the process.

At the end of the meeting the domestic observers expressed their hope that these elections would provide an “unbroken chain of democratic rule in Nigeria” and for a “more experienced democracy” that would “convince the Nigerians of its benefits”.

Saturday, 14 April – Election Day

Composition

During the Election Day, 14 April 2007, the European Parliament delegation split into two teams as follows:

A: TEAM NASSARAWA

Mr John ATTARD-MONTALTO, MEP (Co–Chair)
Mrs Adriana BUCHIU, EP staff
Mrs Simona IACOBLEV, EP staff

B: TEAM LAGOS

Mr Libor ROUCEK, MEP
Mr Toomas SAVI, MEP

Teams observed proceedings at 21 stations. The findings of the delegation are the following:

- Both teams observed that polling stations did not open at 8.00 am. In Lagos voting started between 8.40 am and 10.00 am, in Nassarawa about 11.00 am (in one instance even at 14h30).
- Because of the delay, the Nassawara team went to the Local Government Secretariat (INEC distribution centre in Karu), meeting the top official. He was still providing the electoral materials to his officials, explaining that he was first dispatching those whose polling stations were furthest. It was observed that many officials were still collecting electoral material, although it was past 10.00 am.
- Both teams observed discrepancies in electoral material in different stations. Some had one ballot box, others two (for the two elections). Some stations had registers with fingerprints, others photos, or both for identification purposes.
- Not all INEC officials appeared familiar with procedures. Organisation of the voting area had to take place ad hoc, and in Lagos some stations lacked basic items (tables, chairs...). Checking of voting documents with electoral lists was the main problem. Lists were not alphabetic and potential voters were only located through comparison of the numerical sequence appearing on the voting document and register list. This took time and it was observed that on average it took 3/4 minutes for each vote to be deposited. Only one person voted at a time (Sabon Gida, Daraku, Nassarawa). Eventually it was observed that the procedure of comparison was abandoned as it was proving almost impossible to locate electors within reasonable time.
- In Lagos out of 13 polling stations 10 did not provide for secret voting. In Nassarawa, out of 5 stations sampled, secret voting took place at 2. It was the ingenuity of the officials which provided for secluded voting.
- Except at road blocks the army was not present. The police were present, but kept a low profile. Instances of individual interventions took place for organisation purposes.
- At Kokona, Agwangimba, the son of the Elder of the village intentionally caused verbal and physical commotion each time voting recommenced. It was impossible for INEC officials to carry out their duties and the station was closed.
- In Lagos it was apparent that the number of voters at the polling stations was not high. Where there were queues these were relatively limited. For instance at Kuramo College (Victoria Island – Lagos) out of 714 registered voters 134 casted their vote. In comparison, in Nassarawa, at Yawan 003, a much higher percentage was recorded. Out 685 registered voters 320 cast their vote. A number of other stations, in both locations, had a large number of registered voters, for instance in Daraku Sabon Gida polling station (Nassarawa) out of 2014 given as the number of registered voters by 4.10 pm it was observed that

less than 100 votes were in the ballot box. Many voters had left as the station opened at 2.30 pm.

- In Lagos some stations closed at 3.00 pm, INEC officials being unaware of any extension in time, refusing access to potential voters. In Nassarawa, stations remained opened after 3.00 pm, where queuing was observed prevalent.
- The counting process was observed at Kuramo College, Victoria Island (Lagos) and at Yawan, 003 (Nassarawa). In both cases counting was transparent, orderly and with no serious arguments between party agents. There were instances where the INEC officials were too harsh on disqualifying votes, but with no political bias.

The final conclusions of the delegation were that: INEC was not adequately organised for the process, the two main problems being the late opening of polling stations and the non alphabetical electoral register. The delegation welcomed the enormous enthusiasm of the electorate especially in Nassarawa and took note of the perceivable relief that elections took place without major incidents in Lagos.

Sunday, 15 April

At the return of the team from Lagos, the delegation had a debriefing meeting with regard to the election day. The findings of the delegation are reflected in this report.

The members of the delegation had a meeting with Mr Max van den Berg, who briefed the members on information the Core Team was receiving from the 30 states where the EU EOM had deployed observers. The findings of the EUEOM are noted in the preliminary statement, attached to this report (Annex E). On the same subject, the EU EOM issued a press release on Monday 16 (Annex D).

Monday, 16 April and Tuesday 17 April

Mr John Attard Montalto and Mr Toomas Savi met the Long Term Observers from Niger State on Monday 16 in Minna.

The LTOs informed the members that the results coming out at that time were not in accordance with observation in the field. In the polling stations visited by them and the other short term observers the All Nigeria People's Party won with a considerable difference, by comparison to the People's Democratic Party. The results showed however an overwhelming victory for the PDP. This situation could trigger a lot of cases in court at the end of the election process.

On 17 April, Mr Toomas Savi met the LTOs of Kaduna state.

The LTOs underlined that there were no cases of violence (as expected from a religious perspective) in Kaduna. The LTOs noted similar findings with the EP delegation: late opening of polling stations (10h00 or even 14h30, low turn out, difficulty in finding the voters on the voter's registrar). It was also underlined that no domestic observers were present at the collation centres.

PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

21 APRIL 2007

Election observation mission 12-23 April 2007

Report of the Co-Chairman of the delegation for election observation in Nigeria, Mr Vittorio AGNOLETTO

Programme of the observation mission (the programme is annexed to the report)

19 April 2007

Meeting with Publish What You Pay coordination, Mr David UGOLOR, National coordinator, and other members of the Steering committee

In Nigeria, Publish What You Pay is composed of almost 50 NGOs active in human rights, women's rights, democracy and governance and development. Most of its members were also involved in election monitoring, some of them as members of TMG. Of course, PWYP in Nigeria also stressed the direct link between revenues of oil and democracy. They underlined the role of corruption in the electoral process. Peace and stability in Nigeria can only be secured through credible elections, they said.

The representatives of the NGOs present could share their impressions on the process after the gubernatorial elections. The description they made about the 14 April was completely in line with what the EUEOM and the EP delegation had observed: the late opening of the polling units – or absence of opening, the shortage of material, the problems of voters' registration and the violence in many places. They described that the preparation of the process as highly politicised. For them the election was not free and fair because Nigerians could not express their voting rights.

For them the process was rigged from the beginning and what should come out of the ballot boxes was "*a legal but not a legitimate government*".

EUEOM Core Team briefings

The members of the European Parliament delegation were briefed by the core-team experts on the election situation, especially after the gubernatorial and State Houses of Assemblies elections.

The Members first met the Chief Observer, Mr Max van den Berg who recalled the electoral situation of the country after the gubernatorial elections. Violence was widespread throughout the country. Most of the parties took part in fraud. The PDP, as the ruling party in most States, was the most involved but ANPP and AC behaved in the same way where their representatives were the incumbent. Rigging was not at

polling unit level but at a higher level. The Chief Observer stressed the demoralisation of the domestic observers for the second time after 2003.

Nigeria is a very complex country where solidarity of the people is first and foremost within their own ethnic group. The power of traditional chiefs, emirs or kings, is still extremely important. Most of Nigerians belong in fact to minority groups which are politically “outcast”. Corruption is a fact in the country and is largely accepted by the population as being unavoidable. President Obasanjo has chosen his successor after the reports by the State Security Service. Umaru Yar’Adua is said to be “clean” of corruption.

The legal situation of the Vice President, and AC candidate, Atiku Abubakar was the main issue in the weeks before the elections. The Supreme Court ruled on 23 April in a case filed by the Vice President that INEC did not have the power to disqualify a candidate. As a consequence Atiku Abubakar could run for the presidential elections. The late decision obliged INEC to reprint the ballot papers for the presidential election.

Members were informed on the electoral framework. The lack of transparency of INEC in the publication of results was highlighted. On the media situation, Members were told that press freedom is respected in Nigeria but most publications are linked - or owned - by political forces.

20 April 2007

NGOs/Civil Society

Meeting with Ms FONDO, Electoral Reform Network, Project Manager

ERN is an NGO active in advocacy, civic education, and capacity-building and was very active in the drafting of the 2006 Electoral law. Ms Fondo’s analysis of the electoral situation was in line with others: the late accreditation of domestic observers, the widespread irregularities, problems with the voters register - people who could not find their name and under-aged voters - late and chaotic distribution of voting material, late opening or absence of opening of some polling stations. For Ms Fondo the next step should be in the courts.

Ms Fondo explained to the delegation the difficulties for her organisation to receive European funds, notably from the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The procedures to obtain the money are too bureaucratic and the necessity to be registered is a problem for most organisations (this will not be compulsory anymore with the new European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights). In general the European support for elections came too late, a few months before the elections, when the real work on democratisation and capacity-building of civil society should have been done long in advance. As a result ERN is financed by the Open Society Institute, whose funds were delivered already in 2005. The organisation is indirectly financed by the EU through the Joint Donor Basket (EC, DFID, UNDP...). Indeed she said election support does not have to start one year before the poll. She asked the international community to provide for sustained support rather than focussing on Election Day only.

**Meeting with Mrs Hauwa IBRAHIM,
Sakharov Price Winner 2005**

The delegation met Mrs Ibrahim together with Mr Abaran Maku, Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State, and Mr Charles Ndukwe, from a human rights NGO in the South. The first part of the conversation was about the application of Sharia law in 12 states in Northern Nigeria. Sharia law is still effective as regards death sentence but it is not as effective as two years ago. This is now an issue of credibility and public support: the governors who introduced Sharia law did not adapt their own life to Muslim law. It is then difficult for people to abide by a rule which is not respected by their leaders. The application of Sharia law is also seen as an instrument of politics and of harassment.

The Military has not yet left power, but a positive point is the independence of the judiciary. The government has lost almost all its cases in the Supreme Court which is an excellent sign as the rule of law is indispensable to democracy.

They called for the EU to follow closely the process after the elections for the next four years by supporting grassroots organisations and democratic institutions and not to focus only on the electoral period.

**Meeting with Dr Kabiru MATO,
Political Analyst, University of Abuja**

For Mr Mato, the challenge for Nigeria is to get out of locally based ethnicity. There is still no culture of political party solidarity he said. The life of Nigerians is not better in 2007 than in 1999 despite billions from oil revenues. He feared the "tactic" of the State of emergency after the election: provoking civil unrest to declare the state of emergency and allow the President to stay six more months in office. He recognised that freedom of speech is real in Nigeria but this does not seem to have had any impact on the government.

**Meeting with Mrs Rabi ABDULLAHI,
Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA)**

The organisation is involved in political activities, on a non partisan basis, to empower women in politics. The activities are related to voters' education and to advocating the role of women, as candidates, in political parties. They supported and trained women running for election.

**Meeting with Dr Gabriel GUNDU,
African Peer Review Mechanism Secretariat**

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a mutually agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by the Member States of the African Union (AU) as an African self-monitoring mechanism. The APRM aims to ensure that the policies and practices of participating countries conform to the agreed values in the following four focus areas: democracy and political governance; economic governance; corporate governance; and socio-economic development. The APR process entails periodic reviews of the policies and practices of participating countries to ascertain progress

being made towards achieving the mutually agreed goals and compliance in the four focus areas, namely Democracy and Political Governance, Economic Governance and Management, Corporate Governance, and Socio-Economic Development.

The Director of APRM in Nigeria, Dr Gundu explained to the delegation that Nigeria is currently under review. The report should be presented in July 2007. But it is not up to the APRM to implement any programme. Some recommendations will be made and the authorities will have to enforce them. Support to civil society will certainly be foreseen in the report.

Meeting with LTOs in Lagos

The EP delegation met the long term observers when it arrived in Lagos. They described the 14 April poll as "*a carnival and not an election*". They estimated that the situation was worse than in 1999 and 2003.

Election Day, 21 April 2007

The delegation was deployed in different areas of Lagos: Eti-Osa (Victoria Island), Ikate-Elegushi, Surulere, Aguda.

The EP delegation found that Election Day proceeded in a manner that did not comply with democratic standards. The main conclusions from the delegation can be summarised as follows:

- The delegation learned on the eve of the election that INEC had postponed the opening hours of the polling stations. This last minute change could have influenced the turnout. The late decision did not guarantee that all potential voters could be informed in time.
- The situation at the Eti-Osa local government offices was rather confused a few minutes before the official opening of the polling stations. Sensitive material had not yet been distributed. Presiding officers of polling stations were counting the presidential ballot papers they needed in the courtyard.
- No transportation was provided by INEC for the transfer of sensitive material neither at the beginning nor at the end of the voting process.
- At the local government office, the delegation was informed that the officials in charge could not provide ballot papers for the election of both Houses in some areas, as the name of some parties was not on the ballot papers. As a result of that the delegation found that none of the polling stations observed could organise the vote for the Senate. Some polling units had the correct ballot papers for the House of Representatives.
- The Presidential election ballot papers were printed in loose sheets, and had no serial numbers.
- Except in one polling station, there were no polling booths provided by INEC. Yet in some polling stations, secrecy of vote was guaranteed due to the ingenuity of polling officers. In one case, the delegation found that a polling officer was holding the ballot paper – and looked on – when the voters made their choice. He even indicated where to vote to an undecided voter. The delegation noted that people were not afraid to cast their vote publicly. However the delegation recalls that the secrecy of vote is a precondition for a credible election.

- In many polling stations, the delegation observed that the security staff were standing very close to the polling area and were actively involved in the conduct of the process.
- In most polling stations observed, the polling agents were two and not three as required.
- Two auxiliary polling stations that were observed closed before 5 pm although not all registered voters had cast their vote.
- The count observed by the delegation was handled in a regular manner. The result sheet was correctly filled in. The delegation took note of a very low turnout in that specific polling station. Only 144 out of 1553 registered voters cast their vote.
- The delegation also observed the collation at ward and local government levels. At ward level, the results were properly registered. The few mistakes found were technical and not deliberate. The delegation could monitor later at local government level how that particular miscalculation was corrected. The delegation noted that the results were transmitted in a very chaotic way to another ward collection centre located in the premises of the Eti-Osa local government.
- At the ward level, the delegation also observed that the turnout was very low. Only 3401 voters cast their vote out of 19666 in Victoria Island 2 – the ward observed. Another example taken at the local government level for a different ward collation centre (Ajah Sangotedo) 2282 voters cast their votes out of 9626 voters registered.
- In the areas visited, the delegation witnessed neither violence nor tension. The relations between party agents did not appear to be tense.

For the EP delegation “two main features emerged on both election days: the inability of INEC central office to handle the process efficiently; and the strong determination of Nigerians who managed to cast their vote. The situation that we monitored did not meet international standards for elections.”

22 April 2007

The delegation met on Sunday afternoon and discussed the Election Day. The conclusions of the delegation were transmitted to the EUEOM. The full summary of the findings of the Election Observation Mission is attached to this report.

De-briefing with the EUEOM Chief Observer

On Sunday night the EP delegation held a de-briefing meeting with the Chief Observer. Mr van den Berg outlines the situation throughout the country and his concerns regarding the reactions by some international observers and EU Member States.

23 April 2007

The Co-Chair of the delegation took part to the EUEOM press conference. Mr Vittorio Agnoletto declared that the EP delegation fully endorsed the EUEOM Preliminary Statement and delivered the assessment of the delegation, in line with the EUEOM: the elections in Nigeria could not be qualified as credible. Mr Agnoletto

stressed the importance of a follow-up of the situation and announced that the European Parliament was likely to vote a resolution on the issue.

Conclusions

The EP delegation calls for a constant follow-up of the situation in the country. The delegation was indeed deeply impressed by the quality and the dynamism of civil society. The EU should use all instruments at its disposal - development aid, programmes towards civil society, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights - to push for the idea of democracy and good governance in Nigeria. The EU should especially support civil society organisations during the whole legislature and not only a few months before elections.

The delegation welcomed the good relations with the EUEOM and would like to thank Mr Max van den Berg, who in his capacity of Chief Observer, offered all the support needed by the EP delegation on the spot.

The European Parliament voted a resolution on 24 May 2007 (Annex F) in which it endorses the conclusion of the EU EOM. The EP regrets that the elections cannot be regarded as credible and condemns the atmosphere of impunity for electoral violations, executive immunity and the practice of hiring thugs to perpetrate electoral violence.

Results

INEC declared on Monday 23 April the election of Umaru Yar'Adua as President.