

# **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

**Account of the mission  
to observe the second round of the presidential elections, held in Peru  
on  
3 June 2001**

10 July 2001

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament at its meeting on 17 May 2001 decided to send a mission composed of 12 members of the European Parliament to observe the second round of the presidential elections to be held in Peru on 3 June 2001. In principle the delegation should have comprised the same members as for the first round of the elections.

Parliamentary elections and the first round of the presidential elections had taken place on 8 April 2001, and had been observed by a delegation from the European Parliament led by Mr Joaquim Miranda and Mr Ignacio Salafranca (*see account of this mission, PE 303.891*).

The Delegation to observe the second round of the Presidential elections consisted of Mr. Joaquim Miranda and Mr. Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Co-Chairmen, Mr. John Corrie, Mr Fernando Fernández Martin, Mrs. Karin Junker, Mr. Toine Manders, Mr. Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Mr. Javier Pomés Ruiz, Mrs. Encarnación Redondo Jiménez, Mr. Jannis Sakellariou and Mr. Franceso Speroni.

The Delegation was accompanied by Mrs. Caus and Mr. Rose of the European Parliament Secretariat, by Mr. Gutierrez de Quijano, Mr Jiménez and Mrs González Martínez, interpreters, and by Mr. Soutullo, official of the EPP Group.

Mr Salafranca, Mr Fernández Martin and Mr Speroni arrived in Lima on 31 May 2001. Mr Miranda, Mr Corrie, Mrs Junker, Mr Sakellariou, Mr Menéndez del Valle, Mrs Redondo, Mr Manders and Mr Pomés arrived on 1 June 2001.

## **II. PROGRAMME OF THE MISSION**

### **1 June 2001**

12.00 hrs. - Meeting with Mr Fernando OLIVERA, former Presidential candidate, Leader of the Frente Independiente Moralizador political party.

13.00 hrs - Working luncheon with Mrs Eva Zetterberg, Head of the EU Election Observation Mission (MOEUE).

14.30 hrs - Briefing with Mr Bartolomé Clavero, Deputy Head of the MOEUE.

- 15.00 hrs - Briefing with Mr Augusto Alvarez Rodrich, Director of Apoyo Comunicaciones.
- 15.45 hrs - Briefing with Mr Fernando Tuesta, Head of the Oficina Nacional de Procesos Electorales (ONPE).
- 16.30 hrs - Meeting with Mr Gaston Soto Vallenias, Member of the Jurado Nacional de Elecciones (JNE).
- 17.20 hrs - Meeting with Mr Rafael Roncagliolo, General Secretary of Transparencia (Peruvian Electoral NGO).
- 17.45 hrs - Briefing with Monseigneur Miguel Irizar, Bishop of Callao and Secretary General of the Peruvian Bishops Conference of the Catholic Church.

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**On Saturday, 2 June 2001, the Delegation divided into 3 groups, to observe the election in Lima, Cusco and Iquitos.**

The Lima part of the delegation consisted of Mr Salafranca and Mr Miranda, Co-Chairmen, Mr Fernández Martin, Mr. Menéndez del Valle, Mrs Redondo and Mr Sakellariou. This group was accompanied by Mrs Caus and Mr Soutullo.

## **Programme for the Lima part of the delegation:**

### **Saturday, 2 June 2001**

09.00 hrs - Meeting with Mr. Alan García, Presidential candidate and Leader of the Aprista Party.

A meeting with President Valentín Paniagua, President of Peru, had been scheduled for 11.00 hrs. This was cancelled as Mr Paniagua had to attend a funeral.

11.00 hrs - Meeting with Mr Richard Atwood, EU long-term observer responsible for the Lima region.

12.30 hrs - Meeting with Mr. Alejandro Toledo, Presidential Candidate and Leader of the Peru Posible Party.

16.30 - Meeting with Mrs Lourdes Flores, former Presidential Candidate and Leader of the Unidad Nacional Party.

### **Sunday, 3 June 2001**

The part of the delegation covering Lima divided into 4 groups, as follows:

i) Mr Salafranca, accompanied by Mr Soutullo.

This group visited 5 polling centres containing 281 polling stations in the San Luis and San Borja districts of Lima. It observed the count in polling station No. 046500 (Institute San Borja).

ii) Mr Miranda, accompanied by Mrs Caus.

This group visited 3 polling centres containing 240 polling stations in the La Victoria district. It observed the count in polling station No. 037113 (colegio César Vallejo).

iii) Menéndez del Valle and Mr Sakellariou.

This group visited 6 polling centres containing 168 polling stations in Pachacamac, Lurín and Punta Hermosa districts. It observed the count in polling station No. 038804 (Universidad Federico Villareal).

iv) Mr Fernandez Martin and Mrs Redondo.

This group visited 10 polling centres containing 713 polling stations in San Juan de Miraflores and Santiago de Surco districts. It observed the count in polling station No. 206323 (colegio Santa Teresita).

18.00 hrs - Meeting with Mrs Eva Zetterberg, Head of the MOEUE.

18.30 hrs - Press Conference with Mrs Zetterberg in which Mr Miranda and Mr Salafranca participated.

### **Monday, 4 June 2001**

9.00 hrs - Meeting with Mrs. Eva Zetterberg, Head of the MOEUE, in order to prepare the preliminary report on the elections and the press conference to be held at 12.30 on that day.

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The Cusco part of the delegation consisted of Mrs. Junker, Mr Manders, Mr Pomés and Mr Speroni, accompanied by Mr Jiménez and Mrs González, interpreters.

### **Programme for the Cusco part of the delegation:**

#### **Saturday, 2 June 2001**

7.00 hrs - Departure for Cusco

9.30 hrs - Briefing with Mrs Tiina Heino, MOEUE long-term observer, Cusco, in the Picoaga Hotel.

10.30 hrs - Meeting with Mr Victor Raul Tomaila Quentilla, Campaign Coordinator for APRA, Cusco Department

11.30 hrs - Meeting with Mr Carlos Tobar Tacle, Campaign Coordinator for Peru Posible, Cusco Department

12.30 hrs - Meeting with Mrs Maria Cecilia Puell Manrique, Director of ONPE, Cusco Department.

Afternoon - Orientation - travel around Cusco area.

**Sunday, 3 June 2001 - Polling Day**

The part of the delegation covering Cusco divided into 3 groups, as follows:

- Mr Pomés and Mr Speroni, accompanied by Mrs Gonzalez (interpreter) observed 6 polling centres and 14 polling stations in Cusco, San Sebastian, Pisac, Calca and Urubamba.
  
- Mrs Junker, accompanied by Mr Jiménez (interpreter) observed polling stations in Anta and Ollantaytambo districts.
  
- Mr Manders, along with the a representative of the Defensoria del Pueblo and an observer from the Organisation of American States, observed polling stations in small villages in the Machu Picchu region, by helicopter.

All the teams observed the opening and closing of polling stations, and the count.

The teams reported in to the LTOs at 19.00 hrs.

**Monday, 4 June 2001**

Return to Lima on flight leaving Cusco at 7.30 hrs.

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The Iquitos part of the delegation consisted of Mr Corrie, accompanied by Mr Rose and Mr Gutierrez de Quijano (interpreter).

**Programme for the Iquitos part of the delegation:**

**Saturday, 2 June 2001**

08.30 hrs - Depart from Lima

11.30 hrs - Meeting with Mrs Sonia Franco Alonso, MOEUE long-term observer, at the Hotel El Dorado. Briefing on the situation in Loreto Department and, more particularly, in Iquitos City and region, for the period leading up to the second round

12.30 hrs - Meeting with Mrs Salome Escobedo, Economic Secretary of Peru Posible, Loreto Department, and Mr Santos Rubiños, Departmental Secretary, Peru Posible.

13.05 hrs - Meeting with Mr Marco Cuba, Head of ODPE for Maynas Province

13.30 hrs - Meeting with Mr Roger Cabrera Paredes, Jurado Electoral Especial, Iquitos

14.00 hrs - Working luncheon with LTO and EU STOs in Iquitos area

16.00 hrs - Meeting with Mr Rafael Valdez Marin, Coordinator for APRA, Maynas Province

16.45 hrs - Meeting with Mr Miguel Donayre Pineda, representative of the Defensor del Pueblo, Loreto Department

**Sunday, 3 June 2001**

Mr Corrie, accompanied by Mr Rose and Mr. Gutierrez de Quijano, visited 3 polling centers containing in all 50 polling stations in Indiana and Mazan village areas, along the Amazon to the east of Iquitos

They observed the count in mesa no. 212561 in colegio no. CE60304 (Maynas school)

The group reported back to the LTO, Iquitos, and to the EP Delegation in Lima, by satellite telephone at 18.00 hrs.

In the evening the members of the delegation observed the collating of results in the Central Computer Centre, Iquitos.

**Monday, 4 June 2001**

11.15 hrs - Return to Lima.

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12.30 hrs - Press Conference with Mrs Eva Zetterberg, in which Mr Salafranca and Mr Miranda participated, at which the preliminary report of the MOEUE was presented.

**Tuesday, 5 June 2001**

17.30 hrs - Mrs Junker, accompanied by Mrs Caus, Mr Rose and Mr Jiménez (interpreter), attended a Conference on the participation of women in politics in Peru.

**Wednesday, 6 June 2001**

09.00 hrs - Debriefing of STOs at the Hotel del Pilar, Lima.

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## **II. BACKGROUND TO THE ELECTIONS**

For the general background to the election, see the account of the mission to observe the parliamentary elections and the first round of the presidential elections held on 8 April 2001 (PE 303.801).

The first round of the presidential elections provided an unexpected result. While Alejandro Toledo of the Peru Posible Party came out on top with 36.51% of the votes, second place went to Alan García of APRA, a former President of Peru, with 25.78% of the votes. In third place came Lourdes Flores of the Unidad Nacional Party with 24.30% of the votes, even though most opinion polls had placed her in second position ahead of García. The fourth candidate was Fernando Olivera of the FIM Party, with 9.85% of the votes. All other candidates obtained less than 2% of the votes.

Thus the candidates for the second round were Mr Toledo and Mr García.

Despite overtures from Alejandro Toledo, Lourdes Flores refused to do a deal, and insisted on her neutrality and future independence.

Fernando Olivera came out strongly against García, which effectively put him in the Toledo camp.

As 8 weeks separated the two rounds of the elections, due largely to delays in finalising the results of the first round, there was time for relations between the two candidates to deteriorate. The last weeks of the campaign were marked by personal verbal attacks, and a notable lowering of the general tone. This was referred to by the Peruvian media as the "guerra sucia" (dirty war). However the attacks remained largely verbal, and there was remarkably little physical violence, except for a small number of deplorable incidents such as the planting of a bomb outside the JNE offices. Such acts were most likely perpetrated by non constitutional political activists, and not by representatives of the mainstream political parties.

Many Peruvians were afraid that Vladimiro Montesinos, the former head of the security services under ex-President Fujimori, was still in a position to pull strings behind the scenes. There seems to be widespread fear of a Montesinos-controlled network.

Both candidates strongly pressed for a campaign to clean up corruption, and spoke frequently in favour of human rights.

Certain supporters of candidates that had not gone through to the second round, as well as disgruntled Peruvian citizens who disapproved of both candidates, called for blank or spoiled votes. Finally the number of blank and spoiled votes was not excessive, amounting to 11.06% spoiled votes and 2.75% blank votes (total invalid votes: 13.81%).

The transitional government of President Paniagua remained scrupulously objective and neutral throughout the campaign, and is held in very high esteem. Several commentators expressed the view that if Valentín Paniagua were to have stood for President, he would have been elected easily.

Despite the personalised attacks on each other by the candidates, the campaign for the second round passed off smoothly.

#### **IV. ORGANISATION OF THE ELECTIONS**

For general information on the organisation of the election, see the account of the mission to observe the parliamentary elections and the first round of the presidential elections held on 8 April 2001 (PE 303.801).

As there were only two candidates in the second round, the system was much easier to operate and less open to error. Voters simply had to put a cross or an X on the Party symbol or the picture of the candidate of their choice.

Similarly counting, which took place in polling stations immediately after voting closed at 16.00 hrs, was much simpler than in the first round.

The results came out much more quickly. The quick count estimation carried out by Transparencia was remarkably accurate. The results were known within 12 hours of the close of voting.

#### **V. ATTITUDES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES**

Members of the delegation met with the two Presidential candidates in the second round, Alejandro Toledo and Alan García. They also met with Lourdes Flores and Fernando Olivera. The delegation noted that both the candidates had a positive attitude to the campaign and to the way in which the elections were being organised. Both candidates indicated that they would respect the results of the poll.

**VI. RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS**

- Total number voting      12, 128,969 (81.37% of the electorate)
- Spoiled votes:              1,341,038 (11.06%)
- Blank votes:                333,546 (2.75%)
- **Total valid votes:        10,453,485 (86.19%)**

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>No. of Valid Votes</u>	<u>% of valid votes</u>
A. Toledo	Perú Posible	5, 548,556	53.08
A. García	APRA	4, 904,929	46.92

Thus, as forecast by the opinion poll, Alejandro Toledo won the election.

**VII. CONCLUSIONS**

The European Parliament delegation wishes to thank the election observation mission core team, and its leader Mrs Eva Zetterberg, for the valuable assistance provided, including the most useful briefing sessions arranged before polling day. Sincere thanks are also due to Ambassador Perille, Head of the EC Delegation to Peru. The delegation also wishes to express its gratitude to the Peruvian authorities for the welcome offered and for the manner in which accreditation was accorded and the task of observers facilitated. Finally, the delegation thanks the consultants, AGRER and Instituto APOYO, for their efficient handling of logistical and practical arrangements.

The transitional government must be congratulated on its neutrality and independence in both rounds of the election.

In the first round of the election, many polling stations failed to open on time. This was much less evident during the second round, when most mesas opened either on time or within a half hour of the official opening time.

The general level of training of mesa staff was still somewhat inadequate, though less marked than in the first round. In one mesa in Loreto Province observed by the EU delegation, the mesa staff was only basically literate, and had to depend to a great extent on assistance provided by the ONPE representative, who showed great patience and understanding. This highlights the need for more selective appointment criteria for mesa personnel, and the vital importance of prior training.

It is very important to distinguish between the role of the party representative (personero), and polling station staff. In cases where personeros are dynamic and polling station staff less so, the distinction can be blurred, and on occasions personeros played an excessively prominent role.

Media coverage was generally fair and free.

During the second round the delegation saw no evidence of attempts to buy votes.

Electoral posters were, on occasions, nearer to polling stations than is permitted by the law.

The lists of polling stations provided to observers by ONPE was not always accurate. For example, in Loreto department, the list for colegio CE60071 (Indiana) indicated 14 mesas. In reality the colegio had 26 mesas. Similarly for colegio CE60084 (Mazan) 6 mesas were listed in the ONPE document when there were 13, and for colegio CE60304 (Mazan) only 5 mesas were listed though there were 11. This appears to be due to clerical inefficiency rather than to any attempt to defraud.

The proportion of women voting was remarkably high. There does not appear to be discrimination in this regard.

Special attention was paid to handicapped voters. Cards printed in Braille could be placed over ballot papers to assist the blind, and persons in wheelchairs were carried into polling stations by

the police where ramps were not available. It is regrettable that many mesas were on the upper floors of schools, thereby causing problems for handicapped persons and giving the police extra work.

As in the first round, all electoral material was only in Spanish. This made it difficult for populations of remote areas, who only spoke local languages, to understand instructions. Similarly in the case of illiterate voters the absolute secrecy of the ballot could not be guaranteed. However these are problems encountered in almost all elections in developing countries.

The overall conclusion of the European Parliament delegation is that the election was well conducted in a transparent manner that corresponds to recognised democratic norms, and can consequently be considered free and fair.