Subject: EU-funded electoral assistance

Over the last 20 years, the EU has invested more than EUR 1 billion in electoral assistance projects, mostly in the form of action grant contracts. This is more than double the amount allocated to EU election observation missions (EUEOMs). In the past, EU-funded electoral assistance was provided by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), much of it under the EC-UNDP partnership on electoral assistance and its joint task force, established in 2006.

Over time, a growing interest in increasing EU action and visibility in this area alongside the development of competent and cost-effective European not-for-profit organisations has led to the emergence of a competitive environment in relation to the choice of the implementing partner. However, no specific contract allocation framework has been established that would allow for consultation and competition among potential implementing partners on available projects. EUEOMs, on the other hand, have such frameworks in place.

1 Does the Commission consider that the allocation of contracts for electoral assistance should continue to be based largely on the EC-UNDP partnership on electoral assistance, as is currently the case?

2 How does current practice comply with the EU Financial Regulation, including provisions for delegated cooperation and pillar assessments?

3 Would the Commission consider levelling the playing field and establishing a consultative and competitive framework, involving all eligible implementing organisations?