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**European Union - Election Observation Mission  
West Bank and Gaza 2006****EUEOMWBG - Media - 1/20/2006****136 EU Short-term Observers deployed for Palestinian Legislative Council Elections**

Ramallah/Jerusalem, 20 January 2006 – The EU Election Observation Mission West Bank and Gaza 2006 is deploying 136 Short-term Observers on Saturday 21 January 2006. The 136 observers – who come from 23 EU Member States – are joining their 36 colleagues in the main deployment locations in Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron and Gaza. The arrival of the Short-term Observers marks another major step in the deployment of the EU Election Observation Mission for the elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council on 25 January 2006. A Core team of 13 election experts arrived on 12 December 2005 and established the Mission's offices in Ramallah, Jerusalem and Gaza. 36 Long-term Observers were deployed on 2 January 2006 and have been observing the election campaign for the past two weeks.

The deployment of the Short-term Observers brings the total number of EU Election Observers to 186. There will also be a delegation of 50 observers from the European Parliament.

**Members of the media who would like to attend the deployment of the Short-term Observers and meet the Chief Observer, Ms. De Keyser, should contact the Press Officer of the EU EOM, Mr. Mathias Eick.**

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