## **USAGE OFFICIEL - OFFICIEEL GEBRUIK**



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Federal Public Service
Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and
Development Cooperation

Focal Point international election observation in Belgium

Your contact person: Denis VALOIS Tel: +32 2 501 89 57 E-mail: Denis.Valois@diplobel.fed.be

your communiction of

your reference

our reference

S00.1/DV/OSCE ODIHR SEAM 9th June Election/2024/4691

date 15/05/2024

To be quoted in all correspondence

RE: OSCE/ODIHR Special Election Assessment Mission in Belgium – European Elections 9<sup>th</sup>
June 2024

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

This letter is to confirm that you have been authorised and accredited as an international observer for the European Election to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024 according to Art.203bis of the Belgian Electoral Code (see translation in English in annex).

I would like to draw your attention to the following provisions of the Belgian Electoral Code:

Art.203bis, § 5. Observers are authorised to be present at meetings of the electoral offices, to observe electoral operations in the polling stations without being prevented from doing so, to take note of the electoral lists, to be present during the counting and examination of the ballot papers, as well as during the counting of the votes and the allocation of seats, to take note of the reports drawn up by the polling offices and to take note of appeals lodged against electoral operations, including the acts and files relating thereto.

Art.203bis, § 7. Observers shall apply strict neutrality and comply with electoral legislation. It is prohibited for observers and their accompanying persons to influence the voting procedure, a voter or the decision of a polling office or its president in any way whatsoever. If this prohibition is not respected, the president of the polling office concerned may expel the observer or accompanying person from the polling station.

Egmont I · Rue des Petits Carmes 15, 1000 Brussels Tel. +32 2 501 81 11 · https://diplomatie.belgium.be

Twitter: BelgiumMFA • Facebook: Diplomatie.Belgium • Instagram: BelgiumMFA

## USAGE OFFICIEL - OFFICIEEL GEBRUIK

You will receive a badge identifying you as an international observer. You are obliged to wear this badge in a visible manner when visiting polling stations on Election Day. Please always take along this letter and present it to the polling station presiding officer upon request.

Should you take photographs in the polling stations, please be aware that this is only permitted if you do not violate the secrecy of vote and only if you take into account the privacy of the voters and the polling station staff: the people present in the polling station must be unrecognizable in your photographs.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Valois

Focal Point international election observation in Belgium

**Enclosures:** 

Translation of Art.203bis of the Belgian Electoral Code

Copy to:

