



Press release: for immediate release

EU Election Observation Mission Chief pays courtesy visit to UNIFIL HQ

Naqoura, 20 May 2009 - The Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission to Lebanon today (Wednesday) paid a courtesy visit to the headquarters of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in Naqoura, south Lebanon.

Mr José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra was received by UNIFIL Force Commander, Major-General Claudio Graziano.

“I have paid this courtesy visit today in order to personally acknowledge the important role played by the UNIFIL mission, in collaboration with the Lebanese government, and particularly the Lebanese Army, in contributing to the maintenance of a stable and secure environment in its area of activity which is very important during the electoral period,” said Mr Salafranca.

“In this regard, I would like to recognise the commitment and dedication of the peacekeepers from 28 countries which have contributed troops to UNIFIL’s ongoing work.”

Mr Salafranca, a Spanish Member of the European Parliament, later paid a visit to UNIFIL’s 1,100 Spanish troops in the Miguel de Cervantes base in Marjayoun.

He met there with General José María Prieto Martínez and received a tour of the base.

For further information or to arrange an interview with Mr Salafranca, please contact:

Ms Nuala Haughey, EU EOM Press Officer
Mobile: +961 71 265749
Email: nuala.haughey@eueomlebanon.org
Website: www.eueomlebanon.org