



25 June 2010 – Press Release

## **Security management of the Electoral Observation Mission in Ethiopia**

**After Angola in 2008 and Lebanon in 2009, GEOS delivered security management for the Electoral Observation Mission from 23 May to 22 June 2010 on behalf of the European Commission in Ethiopia during the country's general elections (parliamentary and provincial elections)**

### **The Electoral Observation Missions of the European Commission**

Involving more than 100 independent European observers to guarantee fair and free elections and compliance with international procedures, the electoral observation missions, which take place on all five continents, represent a major operational challenge. As a member of the international consortium led by the German International Development Agency, *GTZ*, GEOS has responsibility for all security and safety-related issues for the operations of the electoral observation missions of the European Commission.

### **GEOS security management mission.**

GEOS deploys for these projects several dozen of its finest international specialists, who deliver a wide range of expertise: close cover protection and security support, training, supervision and monitoring, logistics and operational management, deployment, processing and maintenance of communications and computer systems, selection and supervision of local service providers, administrative and financial management of international funds.

For the needs of this ambitious programme, GEOS and AXA Assistance established G.E.I.E. EURISMA (European Economic Interest Grouping or Groupement Européen d'Intérêt Economique « EUropean RISK Management »), the premier European platform for the provision of safety/security services.

The GEOS team, composed of 14 international and local staff, based in Addis Abeba or stationed nationwide, conducted their mission with success over a period of almost three months. Against a complicated political and security backdrop, the team successfully managed the many security challenges present in the country, in particular the high risk of road accident, made worse by a mountainous landscape, which makes road accidents a frequent occurrence in Ethiopia.

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### **About GEOS**

**GEOS is an international group, and the leading risk management and prevention provider in continental Europe.**

The Group delivers operational support to clients operating in hostile business environments, with a comprehensive package of solutions ranging from audit, consultancy, assistance to crisis management. GEOS enables its clients to take advantage of business opportunities and to better assess and control both international (political, security, terrorist), and business risk (competition, white collar crime, fraud, counterfeiting).

**GEOS in 2010:**

480 full-time staff, a turnover of more than 41 million euro in 2009, operations in more than 80 countries, 18 international branches (Algeria, Colombia, Nigeria, Brazil, Mexico, Iraq, Argentina, etc.) and many clients from all sectors of activity.