



The OSCE Mission in Kosovo has been entrusted with the lead role in matters relating to institution- and democracy-building, rule of law, and human rights in the region. The Mission forms a distinct component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and is responsible for, among other things, training police, judicial and civil administrators; furthering the development of a civil society; supporting media development; organizing and supervising elections; and, monitoring, protecting and promoting human rights.

# Mission in Kosovo

## Election Management Bodies

### Central Election Commission

The Central Election Commission (CEC), established by UNMIK Regulation 2000/21, and given expanded authority in UNMIK Regulation 2000/65, is “responsible for the conduct of elections in Kosovo.” The CEC’s mandate includes the adoption of electoral rules, including rules governing the conduct of political parties, coalitions, citizens’ initiatives, and independent candidates, media coverage of the electoral process, domestic election observation and polling and counting procedures.

The Deputy SRSG for Institution Building, OSCE Head of Mission Ambassador Pascal Fieschi, is the Chairperson of the CEC. There are three international members and nine local members. Three of the members were nominated by political parties in the Kosovo Assembly, which had been represented in the former Interim Administrative Council (IAC). Kosovo’s smaller communities nominated three further members. Three of the local representatives are not politically affiliated and represent academia, non-governmental organisations, and the media. The members were appointed by the SRSG on the basis of their high professional qualifications; the work of the CEC is technical and professional.

The CEC makes decisions by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, however, the Chairperson can make final and binding decisions.

The CEC is supported by the Secretariat that is responsible for drafting Electoral Rules, advising the CEC on international electoral standards and experience, and publicizing CEC decisions. The OSCE Department of Election Operations is responsible for implementing the Electoral Rules after they are passed by the CEC; in many cases the CEC grants the OSCE Director of Election Operations the authority to issue administrative procedures to aid the implementation of Electoral Rules.



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Municipal Election Commissions

Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) play a crucial role in the preparations for transparent and efficient elections. These bodies were first set up prior to the 2000 municipal elections by the CEC to assist in the administration of the electoral process at the municipal level.

Each MEC comprises between three and seven Commissioners, depending on the size of the municipality and representation from the municipality's smaller communities, who are recruited from within their municipalities. Each MEC has a full-time Executive Officer who will ensure the MEC fulfils its obligations to the municipality and the CEC. As the work of the MECs is technical and professional, members exhibit professional, administrative or electoral experience.

The role of the MECs has steadily grown for each electoral cycle in Kosovo as these bodies will gradually take over the local-level administration of the election process in the future. Their mandate is to provide information to voters; provide political parties, citizens' initiatives coalitions and independent candidates with information about their rights and obligations; provide information to Municipal Assemblies on the status of electoral administrative activities in their respective municipalities; appoint and train Voter Services staff and Polling Station Committees; make technical preparations at polling stations; and ensure the proper conduct of polling and counting procedures.

## Election Complaints And Appeals Sub-commission

The Election Complaints and Appeals sub-Commission (ECAC) is the body responsible for the adjudication of all complaints regarding violations of any applicable rules and regulations during the electoral process. The ECAC also is responsible for adjudicating all appeals regarding in and out of Kosovo Voter Services and Registration, including the denial of inclusion on the voters' list. It was first established by the CEC on 24 May 2001

The ECAC is composed of one International Chief Commissioner and between three and five Deputy Commissioners from Kosovo. All members of the ECAC are appointed by the Chairperson of the CEC on the basis of their competence and impartiality. The ECAC is assisted in its duties by international and national staff.

Any person who has a legal interest or who claims that his/her rights concerning the electoral process have been violated by a breach of any of the applicable rules may file a complaint with the ECAC. This includes registered voters; registered political parties, coalitions, citizens' initiatives, and candidates; accredited electoral observers; as well as the Central Election Commission. Furthermore, the ECAC may take cases on its own initiative in any matter within its jurisdiction.

Where violations of Electoral Rules are found to have occurred, the ECAC can impose sanctions which may vary from ordering remedial action to financial penalties to barring people or entities from taking part in the elections.

## CEC Membership

Chairperson

Ambassador Pascal Fieschi

*Deputy SRSG for Institution Building,*

*OSCE Head of Mission*

Friedhelm Frischenschlager

*Head of OSCE Department of Democratization*

Neithart Hofer-Wissing

*Office of the SRSG*

Arsim Janova

*Attorney*

Ismet Salihu

*Attorney*

Haxhi Rama

*Attorney*

Hamide Kunushevc

*Economist*

Halit Ferizi

*NGO representative*

Daut Dauti

*Attorney, Journalist*

Miodrag Brkljac

*Representative of the Serbian community*

Sefket Ajrudini

*Representative of the Bosniak community*

Esad Hafiz

*Representative of the Turkish community*

Susan Carnduff

*Ex-Officio Member, OSCE Director of Election Operations*

Andrew Caldwell

*Head of CEC Secretariat, Chief Legal Counsel*

