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Election 2001

Election Complaints and Appeals sub-Commission

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What is ECAC?

- The ECAC is the **Election Complaints and Appeals sub-Commission**. It is the organisation to which you can turn if you do not agree with any aspect of the electoral process.
- The ECAC was established by the **Central Election Commission (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**.

ECAC's mandate is:

- To examine and adjudicate complaints regarding violations of any applicable rules and regulations during the electoral process.

■ Who can file a complaint?

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.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- registered voters
- registered political parties, coalitions, citizens' initiatives, and candidates
- accredited electoral observers
- the Central Election Commission

Furthermore, the ECAC may take cases on its own initiative in any matter within its jurisdiction.

■ How do you file a complaint?

Complaints must be filed:

- within three days from the day that the violation occurred
- in writing and signed by or on the behalf of the complainant (anonymous complaints will not be accepted)
- in English, Albanian, Serbian, or any language the ECAC considers appropriate under the specific circumstances
- indicating the alleged violation and providing as many details as possible, including all details about witnesses and all supporting evidence.

Complaints can be filed directly at the central offices of the ECAC in Pristina (by mail, fax, or in person) or with any OSCE Regional Centre or Field Office, where you can also ask for assistance if needed.

■ **What can you complain about?**

You can submit complaints to the ECAC regarding violations of any applicable rules and regulations during the electoral process.

For example, you can complain when:

- you witness or experience any type of political violence or threats
- you witness a violation during a political campaign
- you are intimidated or harassed due to your political affiliation
- you witness hate speech at a political rally
- you witness or experience voter intimidation or inducement.

■ **ECAC authority**

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

ECAC's mandate

*To examine and
adjudicate
complaints regarding
violations of
any applicable rules
and regulations
during the electoral
process.*

**ECAC guiding
principles are:**

Impartiality

•

Confidentiality

•

*Accessibility
and transparency*

•

*Promptness
in the
proceedings*