



**ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION
KOSOVO ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

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**IRREGULARITIES AFFECTING THE TRUST IN THE DEMOCRATIC
PROCESS IN KOSOVO**

A high number of irregularities during the Kosovo Assembly elections have severely affected the trust in the democratic process in Kosovo.

Breaching the secrecy of the vote by family and group voting was in many places the rule and not the exception as reported by ENEMO observers from 38% of polling stations visited during the January 9 repeat elections. These serious breaches of procedures were seemingly accepted and there were no attempts by the polling station staff to stop irregular voting behaviors. Similar incidents and alleged fraudulent acts reported for the December 12 elections give a bleak picture of the election process in Kosovo. Furthermore, cases of intimidation and pressure on domestic observers have been reported to ENEMO adding to other weaknesses during the process.

After the December 12, 2010 elections the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP) forwarded more than one hundred complaints to the prosecutor's office for further investigation. In order to increase the level of confidence in the process, ENEMO mission urges authorities to ensure that all election-related fraud cases are investigated and that all perpetrators are prosecuted and held accountable in a timely manner. To break with the sense of election fraud impunity it is essential that all December 12, 2010 as well as 2007 and 2009 pending cases are dealt with in an efficient and transparent manner.

For the January 9 repeat elections the Central Election Commission (CEC) and its Secretariat managed in a satisfactory manner the technical aspects of the electoral process with all important and sensitive material on place in due time. Sessions of the CEC board were open and attended by observers and media representatives. However, the work of CEC was affected by party affiliation of their members. It is needed to additionally strengthen integrity of CEC in decision making process by diminishing influence of political parties.

ENEMO urges a continuation of the work of Working Group on Elections, in order to reform legal framework and Kosovo's authorities to provide efficient enforcement of laws in the line with international standards and good electoral practice

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Following an invitation from the acting President Jakup Krasniqi, the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) deployed an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to observe the Kosovo Assembly Elections on 12 December 2010. On 21 November 2010, ENEMO's Core Team arrived and prepared the deployment of 12 long-term observers in 6 teams covering all territory of Kosovo. They were monitoring the pre-election environment including the political campaign and activities of the election administration ahead of the 12 December elections. On the Election Day, ENEMO deployed 188 election observers from 23 countries to 861 polling stations, throughout all municipalities in Kosovo.

Following the Central Election Commission's decision to repeat voting in three municipalities and two additional polling centers, ENEMO re-deployed three members of Core Team and 4 long-term observers to observe the pre-election environment, repeat voting and counting and post-election development. On 9 January 2011 seven monitoring teams visited 60 polling stations in all municipalities where voting was repeated.

The election is assessed on the basis of international standards for democratic elections and national legislation. This statement of preliminary conclusions is delivered prior to the completion of the election process, including the tabulation and announcement of final results, and the handling of possible post-election day complaints or appeals. These conclusions are preliminary and the mission will continue to observe the process of tabulation of results along with the complaints and appeals process. ENEMO will issue a comprehensive final report within one month including recommendations for potential improvements.