

Electoral Commission Ghana (EC)

As laid down in the 1992 Constitution, the Electoral Commission (EC) is a seven-member body, appointed to organize, conduct and supervise all the elections and referenda in Ghana.

According to Article 46 of the Ghanaian Constitution the Electoral Commission “shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority”. It is hence absolutely independent of the government. This independence is based on two pillars:

- Chair members of the EC have permanent tenure of office and have the same conditions of service as justices of the Superior Courts.
- Expenses of the EC are charged directly on the Consolidated Fund of Ghana.

The EC is required to be represented in each administrative region and district. That means that the Commission has offices in the country’s 10 regional and 138 district capitals.

It is self-explaining that EC’s activity is most intensive at national election time. During past and present elections, the Commission engages thousands of officials of various categories for temporary election duties.

Collaboration with FES

National election time is the time of most intensive FES-EC collaboration as well.

Following are some examples: Together both institutions published a “Code of Conduct” for the election campaigns of Ghana’s political parties in 2000.

In 1996 as well as in 2000, EC and FES developed a publication on the elections providing statistics and analyses of the electoral events. A comparable volume will be published after the 2004 elections.

In 2004, a close collaboration between the Electoral Commission, the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA), the National Media Commission and FES focuses on journalists’ training on electoral reporting, addressing current needs and growing concerns. Workshops in Kumasi, Tamale and Cape Coast have been organized to inform journalists about guidelines on impartial and objective election coverage. Through the publication of the “Election 2004” book in 2005, election analyses and demonstrative descriptions of Ghana’s election results in 2004 was made available for the public.

For further information on EC:

Electoral Commission

P.O. Box 1630

Accra

Tel: 233-21-223328

e-mail: hakumiah@ec.gov.gh

<http://www.ec.gov.gh/>