



Division of Public Information

## **MEDIA MONITORING Headlines**

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### **Main Stories**

**24 February 2010**

- **Kurti trial postponed again (*dailies*)**
- **Bodies of bus accident victims to return to Kosovo this week (*dailies*)**
- **Zannier: Pristina-Belgrade dialogue is necessary (*Epoka e Re*)**
- **Belgrade insists on retaining parallel structures (*Koha Ditore*)**
- **Integration plan (*dailies*)**
- **Sejdiu may meet Tadic (*Express*)**
- **Sejdiu meets with Haradinaj (*dailies*)**
- **Wolfram Maas: Kosovo is Serbia's neighbor (*Koha Ditore*)**
- **Jessen-Petersen: Kosovo lagging behind in several areas (*Lajm*)**
- **Tahir Rrecaj resigns from Supreme Court (*dailies*)**

### **Kosovo Media Highlights**

#### **Kurti trial postponed again (*dailies*)**

Dailies report that the trial of Vetëvendosja leader Albin Kurti was postponed to 2 March after the accused failed to appear before the court yet another time. The EULEX judge decided to postpone the session as, in addition to Kurti, a judge was also absent. Dailies also report that police are still searching for Kurti, and yesterday arrested three Vetëvendosja members suspected of taking part in a criminal act. **Koha Ditore** quotes an unnamed EULEX official as saying that the arrest of the three Vetëvendosja activists is of serious concern to the mission, as the move is considered to have been undertaken intentionally “by someone” to create the impression that EULEX is “in battle” with the movement. “This is either stupidity or a conspiracy,” the source said. **Zëri** reports that the Vetëvendosja members were released in the evening.

### **Bodies of bus accident victims to return to Kosovo this week (dailies)**

*Koha Ditore* writes that the bodies of the six Kosovars who died in a traffic accident near Vienna are expected to be returned to Kosovo during the week. The news was announced by the owner of the travel agency which organized the bus trip to Munich, Germany. Kosovo Foreign Ministry spokesperson Albana Beqiri has said that the Ministry has received information that the Austrian authorities are conducting DNA tests on the victims and that as soon as all required procedures are completed, the bodies will be released.

### **Zannier: Pristina-Belgrade dialogue is necessary (Epoka e Re)**

The head of the UN mission in Kosovo, Lamberto Zannier, said in an interview with Serbian media that he remains of the view that there is a need for a dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade, regardless of what the International Court of Justice (ICJ) decides. Zannier however said that it is be difficult to say whether Pristina and Belgrade will in fact return to the negotiation table following the ICJ decision. “Belgrade will want to open certain processes while Pristina is against that. I still believe that dialogue would be of benefit to both sides,” said the UNMIK chief. Speaking about the ICO strategy for the north, Zannier noted that UNMIK was neither consulted during its preparation nor was the mission involved in it in any other aspects, including its implementation.

### **Belgrade insists on retaining parallel structures (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that Serbian Government official announced on Tuesday that the dissolution of parallel structures in northern Kosovo is unacceptable for Serbia, and therefore that implementation of the strategy drafted by the International Civilian Office (ICO) and the Kosovo Government is unrealistic. They reiterated their position that they would oppose any initiative of the ICO and the Kosovo Government geared at strengthening Kosovo’s institutions, especially in the north of the country. “The strategy prepared by Pieter Feith and the provisional institutions of Kosovo is unacceptable, not only for the north of Kosovo but for all of Kosovo, because it cannot the extinction of Serbia’s institutions cannot be insisted upon, because it is clear that there are Serbs wherever these institutions are. Only these institutions have looked after Serbs,” said Serbian Minister for Kosovo Goran Bogdanovic.

### **Integration plan (dailies)**

Dailies report that the implementation of the strategy for integrating northern Kosovo will soon begin. International Civilian Office (ICO) chief Pieter Feith said yesterday during Foreign Policy Club discussions that the international community would also consult with Belgrade on the strategy, but only on certain of its aspects. At the meeting of Kosovo and international institutions, it was stressed that conflict in the north would not be allowed and neither would the continuation of a frozen situation which lasted a decade. “We cannot change what happened for years in the northern part of Kosovo with a magic wand. We consider that it should be clear to everyone that we do not want an armed conflict in the north, but not a frozen conflict as it has been for years either. The strategy has to be implemented and with this, ICO and the

states that have recognized Kosovo consider that Kosovo's territory will be protected," said Feith.

"The Kosovo Government must offer a perspective to all citizens in the north. Based on this policy, the Government, in cooperation with ICO, drafted the strategic plan for the north of the country, which should be considered as nothing more than a strategy for democratization, the establishment of public order, and the dissolution of criminal and anarchist groups," said Kosovo Deputy Prime Minister Hajredin Kuçi.

### **Sejdiu may meet Tadic (*Express*)**

*Express* reports that Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu may meet with Serbian President Boris Tadic in Slovenia at a conference due to take place in March between EU and Western Balkan leaders. During a visit to Brussels, Slovenian Foreign Minister Samuel Zbogar said that Tadic had given assurances that he would take part in the meeting. The host country, Slovenia, and EU officials consider that Sejdiu should also attend the summit.

### **Sejdiu meets with Haradinaj (*dailies*)**

Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu yesterday met with AAK leader Ramush Haradinaj. *Zëri* reports that the meeting ended with an agreement that there early general elections would not be organized this year, and that there would also be no pre-election coalition between the AAK and the LDK. *Express* quotes Haradinaj's advisor Avni Arifi as saying that the meeting focused on current developments and on the request of the AAK leader to announce early elections. "President Sejdiu did not express willingness to have elections because he considers that the mandates won in the November 2007 elections should be continued," said Arifi.

*Epoka e Re* quotes a source as saying that the meeting took place after Haradinaj requested to meet with Sejdiu last week, and that "the President did not have time to meet him before yesterday."

### **Wolfram Maas: Kosovo is Serbia's neighbor (*Koha Ditore*)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that German Ambassador to Belgrade Wolfram Maas told Belgrade daily *Press* that good regional cooperation is one of the preconditions for joining the European Union. "There are no new conditions for Serbia's further European integration, they are the same as for all other candidates. A request for Kosovo to be recognized as an independent state by Serbia was never made. However, good regional cooperation, and good neighbourly relations are a part of the preconditions for membership in the EU. For us, Kosovo is Serbia's neighbor," said Maas.

### **Jessen-Petersen: Kosovo lagging behind in several areas (*Lajm*)**

In an interview with *Deutsche Welle* Former UNMIK SRSG Søren Jessen-Petersen said that Kosovo's independence is irreversible, but pointed out that Kosovo is lagging behind in several areas, most notably the economy and rule of law. He said that economic development problems are tied to insecurity regarding Kosovo's status

which he linked, above all, to the failure of the United Nations to recognize the declaration of independence through a resolution. He added that the EU also failed to respond in a unified manner.

### **Tahir Rrecaj resigns from Supreme Court (*dailies*)**

The head of the Elections Complaints and Appeals Commission and newly-reappointed Supreme Court judge Tahir Rrecaj has resigned from his Supreme Court position. Rrecaj said that he resigned because of a disagreement regarding serious irregularities during the reappointment of judges and prosecutors.

## ***Kosovo Press Headlines***

### ***Koha Ditore***

#### **Front page**

- **Justice pursues Vetëvendosja**
- **Kosovo Assembly debate on the north in March**
- **Maas: Kosovo is Serbia's neighbour**
- **Belgrade insists on retaining parallel structures**

#### **Other headlines**

- **Bodies of bus accident victims to return to Kosovo this week (2)**
- **Dilemmas around implementation of the strategy (3)**
- **France: Kosovo independence is irreversible (4)**
- **USA calls on Serbia to ensure stability for Kosovo (4)**
- **ORA ceases existing for good (5)**
- **Croatia arrests a Kosovar based on Serbia's arrest warrant (5)**
- **Rrecaj resigns from Supreme Court (7)**
- **Bajrush Xhemajli trial postponed (8)**
- **Matoshi: LDK's "Project Mustafa" begins (10)**
- **Zogiani: Sorry for helping you (11)**

### ***Zëri***

#### **Front page**

- **Sejdiu disappoints Haradinaj**
- **Drastic decline in number of births**
- **Over 2,000 KEK workers on strike**
- **Strategy implementation soon to begin**

### **Other headlines**

- **Assembly to debate law enforcement in the north (2)**
- **Serbia must ensure stability for Kosovo (2)**
- **Normalization of relations after ICJ (2)**
- **Istog to vote on 11 April (2)**
- **Kurti trial postponed to 2 March (3)**
- **Five victims from Vienna accident identified (4)**
- **Merger formalized (5)**
- **Serbia will “fight” the strategy (6)**
- **Arrested and released (6)**
- **Tahir Rrecaj resigns (6)**

## ***Kosova Sot***

### **Front page**

- **Chamber bypassed, €17 million from privatization to be distributed**
- **Kurti trial on 2 March, 3 activists arrested**
- **AAK will not sue Sejdiu at the Constitutional Court**
- **Rrecaj resigns**
- **Editorial: Independence of governments, Kosovo’s unachieved standard**

### **Other headlines**

- **Tender for license plates incites political clash (2)**
- **Kusari’s hopes for Gjakova fade (3)**
- **Albania called upon to investigate organ trade allegations (4)**
- **Stuart Jones to visit Kosovo this week (4)**
- **Difficulties with the strategy (4)**
- **Debate on the north on 4 March (4)**
- **ORA formalizes merger (5)**
- **Independence is irreversible (5)**
- **KEK workers continue to strike (7)**

## ***Epoka e Re***

### **Front page**

- **This immoral process...**
- **Released after several hours of detention**

### **Other headlines**

- **Kurti trial postponed to 2 March (2)**
- **Kryeziu: With ORA, LDK strengthens civic aspect (5)**

- **Gordon: Serbia must ensure stability for Kosovo (5)**
- **Zannier: Pristina-Belgrade dialogue is necessary (5)**
- **Interior Ministry denies AAK allegations of €1.5 million theft (6)**
- **Kuçi: Implementation of strategy soon to begin (6)**
- **Terral: Independence of Kosovo is irreversible (6)**
- **Assembly to discuss parallel structures on 4 March (6)**
- **Government increases care for KLA war disabled (7)**
- **Sejdiu finds time to meet Haradinaj (7)**
- **Rrecaj resigns from Supreme Court (7)**
- **€5 million returns project to be implemented by internationals (11)**

## ***Express***

### **Front page**

- **Rightist refusal to Haradinaj**
- **Pirates' zone**
- **Kryeziu: We ask for understanding**
- **Rrecaj resigns**

### **Other headlines**

- **Limani: *Vetëvendosja* at the Assembly (2)**
- **Çollaku: Kosovo in Europe (3)**
- **Sejdiu and Tadic may meet (4)**
- **Date of Istog elections must be changed (5)**
- **Gjakova dilemma closed (5)**
- **Belgrade without a strategy (6)**
- **Integration plan (6)**
- **Half-day arrest (8)**

## ***Lajm***

### **Front page**

- **Enigma of the unknown grave**
- **“Reality show” at the court**
- **Soon to be privatized**
- **Critiques for Brussels**

### **Other headlines**

- **Jessen-Petersen: Kosovo is lagging behind in certain areas (2)**
- **Germany: Kosovo is Serbia's neighbour (2)**
- **Gordon: Serbia should not induce instability (3)**

- Normalization of Kosovo-Serbian relations after ICJ ruling(3)
- Tahir Rrecaj resigns (4)
- Political decision for return of customs in the north (6)

## **Bota Sot**

### Front page

- Government delays establishment of working groups
- LDK brags about expansion, Tërmkolli criticizes
- Three *Vetëvendosje* activists arrested, Kurti not found
- Dervishi: Vetëvendosje, the end of 2013 game

### Other headlines

- Editorial: Delay it until March (2)
- Minister Hoxhaj at German Bundestag (3)
- Kosovo with a favoured status on trade with EU (3)
- Gordon: Serbia must ensure stability for Kosovo (4)
- Assembly to debate Constitution's implementation (4)
- Sejdiu meets Haradinaj (7)

## **InfoPress**

### Front page

- The north in Kosovo
- Strategy will be implemented
- Misunderstanding around visa liberalization
- ORA officially in LDK

### Other headlines

- ICJ opinion does not shake France (2)
- Tahir Rrecaj resigns (2)
- In UN within five years (4)
- The north in Kosovo (4)
- Debate on Constitution's implementation on 4 March (4)
- Serbia scares investors (6)

#### **Disclaimer**

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