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## **SRSB in Albania stresses importance of its support to the Kosovo issue**

**PRISTINA** – “Resolving the status of Kosovo is not only important for Kosovo, but it is equally important for the region and we count on the support of Albania,” said SRSB Søren Jessen-Petersen at the conclusion of his one-day trip to Tirana today, where he met with President Alfred Moisiu, Prime Minister Sali Berisha and Foreign Minister Besnik Mustafaj.

The SRSB briefed his hosts on the latest developments in Kosovo and exchanged views on the way forward. He invited the Albanian Government to continue sending positive messages to key players in Kosovo as part of efforts to promote the regional outlook.

“We count on Albania to play a constructive role in the process and I welcome Albania’s active dialogue with all the countries in the region, including dialogue with Belgrade,” he said to the press after the meetings.

Congratulating the Albanian Government on its conduct of the recently held elections, he urged that the excellent relations between UNMIK, the Kosovo Government, and Albania continue and be further enhanced in the coming months, which will be crucial for Kosovo and for the region, especially during the status talks.

“I think the region is finally moving towards resolving the last piece of the jigsaw puzzle. It will be difficult,” he said, but the status quo is not sustainable, adding “there is absolute agreement in the international community that the future Kosovo must be stable, tolerant, multi-ethnic and democratic”.

The SRSB also discussed a number of bilateral issues with the Albanian leaders, such as economic and trade agreements, and police cooperation. He was most encouraged to hear that the Albanian Government was resolved to fight organized crime and corruption.