

Press Briefing Notes

14 September 2005

UNMIK Spokesperson Neeraj Singh
KFOR Chief PIO Col. Pio Sabetta
OSCE Spokesperson Sven Lindholm
EU Pillar Spokesperson Mechthild Henneke

UNMIK Spokesperson Neeraj Singh:

SRSB's programme

Tomorrow, the SRSB and COMKFOR will be on a field trip to Klinë/Klina municipality where they will meet Municipal officials and Kosovo Serb returnees and IDPs. The programme will commence at 13:30 hours at the Klina/Klinë Municipal Building and conclude at 15:30 hours. The media are invited to attend.

On Friday morning the SRSB will leave for New York where he will be meeting UN officials and the Contact Group members, as well as other international interlocutors. He will return to Kosovo on 26 September.

New laws

In the past week the SRSB promulgated two new laws that were earlier adopted by the Kosovo Assembly: The Law on Adult Education and Training sets out the framework of adults learning provision, including the compensatory learning and other education and training provisions for adults not already regulated by existing laws.

The Law on Support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) regulates governmental policies and measures for classifying Small and Medium Enterprises with the aim of supporting such enterprises through creation of an institutional, regulatory and financial framework.

You may pick up copies of the Regulations from the Press Office.

Registration of Foreigners

Regulation 2005/16 'On the Movement of Persons Into and Out of Kosovo' that came into force on July 1, 2005 requires among other things that all foreigners residing in Kosovo prior to the Regulation's entry into force apply to the designated Police Station for authorization to enter and remain in Kosovo.

This application is required to be made within 90 days of the Regulation's entry into force. That 90 day period will expire on September 28, 2005. Therefore, all foreigners who do not fall within the exempted categories (sections 2.1, 2.2 or 2.3) specified in the Regulation must present themselves to the Office for Registration of Foreigners before the close of business on September 28, 2005.

The Office for Registration of Foreigners is located next to the main entrance to the Central Police HQ, Police Avenue, Pristina. The office is open from 9am - 4pm Monday through Friday and from 10am to 3pm on weekends.

For any enquiries the public may contact the Office for Registration of Foreigners at the e-mail address: office-for-registration@un.org or by calling 038 504 604 ext 6961.

World Summit

You may pick up some information booklets available in the gallery outside on the 2005 World Summit that begins at UNHQ in New York today.

KFOR Chief PIO Col. Pio Sabetta

No announcement.

OSCE Spokesperson Sven Lindholm

No announcement.

EU Pillar Spokesperson Mechthild Henneke

I have a small announcement: Whoever is interested to bid in the seventh wave of privatisation has the opportunity to pre-qualify until today 5:30 at the KTA Main HQ and in North Mitrovica of course.

Neeraj: Thanks Mechthild, any questions?

Zeri: Is there any Serb police station operating in the north of Kosovo as the last ICG report mentions.

Neeraj: I will not comment on the ICG report. As you know, it is a private organization, we read their report with interest. They do not consult UNMIK in the drafting of their report, so there may be elements in that report that we agree with and those we do not agree with, which may be accurate or inaccurate. We will not comment on this or any other specific element of this report or similar reports from other private entities.

Q: Are you aware that today 12 residents of the village of Slatina have been arrested, and what is the purpose of these arrests?

Neeraj: I am not aware of those arrests. You may want to check with the police press office afterwards.

Q: How do you assess the attacks on the police patrol which took place recently near Strepce?

Neeraj: There have been several statements from the SRSG, from us, on the incident. Definitely, it is a despicable act that must be condemned and has been condemned, not just by UNMIK but by the Kosovo government, by other international leaders. So I can only repeat that it is something that deserves to be condemned. At the same time it is something that needs to be investigated on priority and that is being done by the police. There are vigorous investigations ongoing. There have been various appeals from the police asking for cooperation from the public; we would again repeat that anybody having any information that may help with this investigation should come forward and share that with the police. On the progress of the investigation, I do not have any update at this time that can be shared with the public.

AP: Does UNMIK have anyone travelling with Minister Haziri to Vienna, to the talks with his Serbian counterpart?

Neeraj: I can confirm that UNMIK will be represented in the meeting in Vienna.

AP: At what level?

Neeraj: I cannot say, I am not aware.

AP: How do you consider that meeting? To be important, what will be achieved or you have been just invited there, you haven't been organizing it?

Neeraj: Any dialogue, as we have been always stressing, between Pristina and Belgrade, as well as within Kosovo between the various communities and political parties, all dialogue we always support and encourage and welcome. This falls into the same category, so definitely it is very welcome.

AP: In which way have you supported this one? Have you been actively involved in its preparation or have you been invited as...

Neeraj: We support it in whatever way required.
Any more questions? Thank you.