

UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

Media Monitoring

► **Local Media**

► **Media Analysis**

07 September

PM Rexhepi: Grossman's position fills the gap in Resolution 1244 (*Epoka*)

Epoka e Re carried an interview with Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi.

US Under Secretary of State Marc Grossman visited Kosovo on Wednesday. Based on the meetings that he had with SRSG Harri Holkeri, representatives of institutions and political parties and the heads of Quint offices it can be said that the US expects the most from the Albanians. How do you explain this turning point in the US policy towards Kosovo?

I think that this is very important for Kosovo. The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs has visited us at the right time, at a time when we were in a status quo or a state of confusion, and when we didn't know when the status of Kosovo was going to be resolved. This is very good and it comes together with the plan called the Standards Implementation Plan for Kosovo, which implies that at the same time we are going to have operationalization of standards. The Government of Kosovo has been involved in preparing this strategy for a long time, and if I can say even though we didn't have a joint platform of the institutions, in a way we have always emphasized that the best time to resolve Kosovo's final status would be 2005, even though we believed that it should happen even earlier. However, it is known that there are going to be elections in Kosovo, Serbia and the US in 2004, and it is difficult to make decisions at such moments. Therefore, that is the final period. We can see that things cannot move in the right direction without the direct involvement of the US, and now I believe that there is willingness both from the US and the Contact Group. In a way, both the European Union and UNMIK support this. This was a very important meeting for all the leaders of institutions and the leaders of the main political parties, and also for the representatives of the Serb community. Dragisa Krstovic and the Minister of Health, who represented the non-Serb community, support this plan and I believe that this is now a guideline on when the status will be resolved. It is time for all institutions, political parties and the citizens of Kosovo to do their part of the job to implement the standards which will go together with the status, and we hope that these standards are going to be fulfilled by mid-2005 or even earlier, and then the status of Kosovo will be resolved.

Mr. Rexhepi, despite many statements on the transfer of competencies, this issue has been delayed a lot. Do you expect a faster pace of transfer of competencies now that there is a time frame for fulfilling the standards?

Yes, in a way, the time frame on standards is connected to the transfer of competencies. It is very true that there have been delays in the transfer of competencies because as you well know we used to have a joint council for the transfer of competencies which met only twice. Some competencies have been transferred from Chapter 5, but following pressure from Serbia, this process has been stalled. Then there was a certain gap between the time of the two chief administrators; we know that Steiner left somewhat early and then Holkeri arrived a little late, and this process was actually blocked in a way. However, during the meeting that I had with SRS Holkeri, I asked for this process to be continued and he promised me that all the competencies from Chapter 5 would be transferred by the end of the year, and then work would be continued in other competencies from Chapter 8, but there are also some competencies in Chapter 6, 7... and we will move towards increasing competencies and capacities of the Kosovo Government.

So far UNMIK has conditioned the transfer of these competencies with the fulfillment of standards. Are the government and other local institutions capable of fulfilling these standards, if UNMIK continues to remain close-fisted in this respect?

The way, in which standards before status were presented, without their operationalization, was something abstract and something that has not scared us but we simply weren't motivated to implement them because they were undefined. Now with the operationalization of standards, we are going to be able to tell the areas that are within the competencies of UNMIK and of the locals. Everyone must fulfill his share of the standards and there should be an evaluation of the progress every three months. This is very optimistic because we also have the support of Quint countries, which means that every Quint country is going to be engaged in the implementation of one of these standards. I am optimistic that we can fulfill these standards, even though this is something relative because no one can fulfill them completely, but there is going to be sufficient progress to determine the status of Kosovo, so that standards do not condition the issue of status. This goes together with the strategy that I have mentioned in the beginning that standards have to go together with the status.

Do you believe that you must have additional ministries to successfully fulfill these standards?

Yes, this is very necessary because without the main ministries the Kosovo Government cannot be at the right level. This especially includes the Ministry of Order, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and later on the Ministry of Defense. However, for the time being most of these are reserved powers but there is a certain movement and willingness to build these structures and the Government of Kosovo will certainly be completed by 2004, so that it can have the necessary structures and a much better foundation to continue the positive processes in Kosovo.

How much is the transfer of competencies hindered by the Constitutional Framework? Resolution 1244 is a resolution of compromise. The major deficiency of this resolution is that it failed to envisage how long UNMIK will operate in Kosovo and the time for the resolution of the status. However, Grossman's position has filled that gap in Resolution 1244. And as for the Constitutional Framework, it must be changed

because it is too narrow for the reality in which we are working now. And it is known that the initiative of the Legislative Committee on Constitutional Issues and we hope that there are either going to be changes or the new constitution will be prepared.

What should be concretely changed in Haekkerup's Framework?

There are many issues but the question is of the approach. We must communicate with UNMIK, so that we don't have voting in the assembly that fails to be acted upon and we must find the best way to implement the changes in the Constitutional Framework or the new constitution.

How well do you think the Government of Kosovo is functioning, bearing in mind that it lacks the main ministries, which are needed for a genuine functioning government?

It is known that from the very beginning this government was handicapped by many limitations and wasn't given all the ministries. And bearing in mind all of this, one certainly cannot expect great results.

The government that you lead includes ministers who come from the three Albanian political parties and also from two non-Albanian entities. How difficult is it to lead such a government?

If I were to say how difficult it really is, I wouldn't be subjective, but nonetheless I can say that the beginning was very difficult, especially on the eve of the election campaigns, when the ministers thought more about party politics than about the government. However, I think that in the end we have reached a certain unity, and we have common positions on almost all decisions, but there are also cases when we make differences. But now we have closer cooperation and I think that we are on a good path compared to the conditions in which we worked as a fragile government comprised of three political entities and communities, and with all the limitations and the opposition that we sometime have with UNMIK, I think it is a success that we are working as a government.

Assembly's priorities: Constitutional changes, laws and declaring independence (Zëri)

Zëri carries opinions of the political scene of Kosovo on how to declare independence, its implementation and what will happen after.

Kosovo's assembly, as the highest institution has announced the declaration of Kosovo's independence within its mandate. This announcement is public since one year.

Laws and procedures depend on the government to initiate them, said the assembly speaker's advisor Ramush Tahiri. During the process of filling the legal vacuum it were important to pay more attention to priorities such as economy and its laws, he said.

Another important issue were the transfer of competencies in all the fields where local institutions are foreseen to have competencies, he said. In this sense, a particular priority were the change of the Constitutional Framework, a process that has already started, Tahiri further said. The process itself were going in two directions, first were

the adoption of amendments and the second one were the compilation of the new constitution. Currently it seems that the first one were chosen.

Another significant aspect were declaration independence, he said. 'The declaration of independence will happen at the assembly, but only after the refurbishment of the building and such act it is not expected to happen at the municipality building,' Tahiri was quoted as saying. 'Therefore we are preparing the formal act of declaring it,' he further said and added that this process will be followed by a preliminary political agreement.

'It could happen that after the declaration of independence there will be a moratorium for a certain period of time, in order to solve some issues with the international community, and this would last from three to six months,' said firmly Tahiri.

'In this sense a question may raise, what will happen after the independence? There are various versions of regulating relations with UNMIK and KFOR and we think that internationals should be present here as advisors, whilst NATO should be permanently present here,' he said.

However, declaring independence doesn't mean that we are opposing the UNSC, Tahiri concluded.

The paper further reported that all parliamentary groups expressed their commitment to take such historical decision. 'Before declaring Kosovo's independence, it is necessary to have a preliminary consensus amongst the political parties and Kosovo's institutions in order that this declaration not to remain formal but to be functional, said Sabri Hamiti, chief of the LDK parliamentary group at the Kosovo assembly.

'I am supporter of a realistic policy and I think that the conditions are matured so our government during its mandate will be able to implement this issue (independence) in partnership with the international community,' said Arsim Bajrami chief of the PDK parliamentary group at the Kosovo assembly.

AAK member and deputy Bajram Kosumi said that after declaring the independence, Kosovo should begin negotiations with UNMIK and the UNSC to implement this decision.

UNMIK's approach that nobody can unilaterally determine Kosovo's status is in consistence with the philosophy of this administration, he stressed.

Kosovo deputies welcome operationalization of standards (Zëri)

Zëri carried reactions of the main political parties on the plan for operationalization of the standards.

Timelines for fulfilling the standards and the plan for their operationalization has found great support in the main political parties in Kosovo. Deputies of the Kosovo Assembly have welcomed active commitment of the Americans in the process of operationalizing of the standards.

LDK deputy Lulzim Zeneli assessed positively the operationalization plan. 'It will lead to dynamic implementation of the standards in order to finalize the Kosovo status,' he said.

While PDK deputy Arsim Bajrami said that operationalization process and the time frame for fulfilling the standards is in harmony with the assembly's demands for advancing Kosovo constitutional position through constitutional changes.

'These timelines create obligations for the Kosovo government, the assembly and the president, to make progress in fulfilling these standards and this is fully consistent with the initiative for making constitutional changes,' he said.

AAK deputy Bujar Dugolli welcomed active American involvement and at the same time asked areas where locals have competencies to meet the benchmarks should be defined and separated from UNMIK's reserved competencies.

'Assessing that the standards have been achieved on the ground should be done by a special international mechanism, not by UNMIK. We shouldn't be penalized if there is no progress in areas that belong to the reserved competencies because we cannot be successful if reserved powers are controlled by somebody else,' he said.

However, the plan for operationalization and timelines for fulfilling the standards is one of the proposals that was accepted well, compared to previous UNMIK proposals for accomplishing the standards, the paper concluded.

Surroi: Understanding Arab prayers (Koha Ditore)

*'After a year of roaming around, Kosovans and the international community have reached the conclusion that they should put together a joint plan,' writes publisher Veton Surroi in an opinion piece in **Koha Ditore**.*

1.

Kosovars love their country as much as they love America, and upon hearing that Marc Grossman, the third man in American diplomacy, was coming with a plan to break the status quo in his bag, they thought half the job was done. Just seeing the content of the letter was half the job to be able to declare that we have entered a new political rhythm.

After his visits to Belgrade, Pristina and Tirana, the only problem that Grossman brought here is that the written letter does not exist.

What the American diplomat brought to the three capital cities is a date, a concept and a white piece of paper.

The date is the middle of 2005, when discussions on Kosovo status should start, the concept is the benchmarks of a functioning political entity (we would call it a state, but it is not diplomatic), and the white paper serves to give the way to achieve standards in it.

In the last one and a half years of a more or less futile political debate in Kosovo, only one thing has changed after the visit of the American diplomat; the mention of a date that US thinks when the Kosovo status should be tackled. The rest was known before; i.e. achieving benchmarks and filling in the blanks with meaningful and concrete words.

2.

For the Americans, though, the paper is not blank, it has been a while since the State Department prepared a draft of operationalization of the eight standards that would make Kosovo functional (starting from issues such as the returns to privatization), and over the last few weeks the same thing has been agreed in the six countries of the Contact Group.

While for UNMIK and Kosovars it is still a blank paper, that is to say neither UNMIK nor local institutions have jointly even an elementary concept on operationalization that would lead to common results in order to make Kosovo functional.

Over the last 12 months, UNMIK, especially during Steiner's tenure, has converted benchmarks into a religious act, resembling a prayer in Arabic, for something that we know is divine, but its contents we do not know. In these 12 months UNMIK did not explain to itself or to others the way to implement the standards, who was responsible for what and what was the deadline.

Over the last 12 months, on the other hand, the Kosovar officials dealt with everything and nothing without focusing on the concept of benchmarks and on operational policies as a form of redefining governance. The truth is that the Kosovo Government made some efforts, which were soon forgotten due to a lack of political support within the country.

Now, after one and a half years, we are at the same stage: how to translate Steiner's Arabic prayers into an understandable language.

3.

Maybe it is a good opportunity for Kosovars and UNMIK.

For the chief administrator Holkeri, the visit of a senior US official was the necessary support that was needed after his failure in the beginning when he focused on the Vienna talks. Holkeri is now in a position to understand the need to build up his administration in partnership with the Kosovars.

For Kosovars it is a chance to convert their obvious shortcomings, in areas such as competencies to privatization, into a governing concept, from listening to what UNMIK is saying to a governing partnership. UNMIK can transfer more competencies, and Kosovars can ask for more competencies, if they are part of the policy of 'standards before status'.

If this opportunity is taken, the Kosovo politics will become more dynamic, while UNMIK will not waste time without a clear orientation and direction.

4.

The time factor will play its role. Years of stagnation in Kosovo cannot be compensated within in space of time, not even the last year when the ‘standards before status’ was formulated. All of this will make even the mid-2005 date as not definitive for Kosovo’s status; it can happen earlier, but not too much later. Many outside factors will be relevant for defining the status: relations with Serbia and Montenegro, developments in Serbia after the early elections, developments in the US before and after the elections.

In this timeframe, Kosovars can engage in implementing standards over the next eight and nine months and then hold the elections.

Paradoxically, after the elections the policy ‘standards before status’ will more or less be forgotten, since the pressure from within and without on the final status will intensify.

Yet, our generation will have to deal with the same standards of democratic functioning of a state even after the status issue is resolved.

So the question arises: why wasn’t this explained in Albanian, but in Arabic?

Shala: Excluding the option of Kosovo’s division (Zëri)

Zëri runs a front-page editorial by Blerim Shala:

Getting used to searching every word or even gesture of US officials for the key to resolving the problems in the Balkans, Albanian and Serbian politicians followed all statements made by the US State Department Under Secretary Marc Grossman with special interest. The key interest was in Grossman’s position on the final status of Kosovo when he said that all options were on the table, including the independence of Kosovo.

Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Nebojsa Covic immediately responded to Grossman by saying that there could be no talks on the independence of Kosovo. Covic and other Serbian officials are on the verge of parliamentary elections and in the next couple of days we can expect them to make similar statements.

In Prishtina, maybe due to multidimensional political and economic delays, Grossman’s statement was followed by a sense of surprise, as if the US official had said something new. In principle, ever since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 in June 1999, it was known that the final status of Kosovo was an open issue and that there could be several options for its solution. I guess that the only ones who were surprised were the Albanian ‘experts’ who still believe in the conspiracy theories against Kosovo and Albanians.

It would be good for our politicians and for the future of the region if western capitals explained what option is not on the table. The option that should be excluded in this context is the territorial division of Kosovo. Furthermore, if this option were to be excluded now, many processes in Kosovo would take on a positive direction.

Necessity of Albanian-Serb talks in Mitrovica (*Koha Ditore*)

In an opinion piece for *Koha Ditore*, Nexhmedin Spahiu, a political analyst, professor at the University of Tetovo, and director of Mitrovica TV, writes that it is Pristina to show the importance of the dialogue to Belgrade, Brussels and Washington, and not the other way around. And the dialogue should start at the core of the problem; Mitrovica.

Talks in Vienna failed due to improper preparations by Serb and Kosovar politicians to face challenges of the time. In fact, Vienna sounds as a success for Kosovars, since Kosovo was represented there with its President and with the Parliamentary speaker and Serbia with its Prime minister and a deputy PM.

In brief Vienna demonstrated on the one hand the inability of Belgrade to dominate Kosovo, and inability of Kosovars to be presented as a state.

This is the form, but the substance has to do with the fact that Kosovo side to talk with Belgrade cannot be comprised of representatives from the majority party of Kosovo, but of its most dynamic part, PDK. This is understood by all; Kosovars, Belgrade and internationals. It was exactly this part of population that spoiled the Belgrade-Pristina balance in 1998-1999 and it is this part that can create new balances. Because of this fact the PM Rexhepi and the head of PDK Hashim Thaçi did not go to Vienna. It is not that their not going there would damage the interests of Kosovo, but it made them and Kosovo benefit politically. They simply took the opportunity to show they are the key players in Kosovo regarding the dialogue with Belgrade.

The Kosovo PM Rexhepi, like he did not wait to get proper bulletproof clothes and medical tackle to join KLA, but joined them with what he had, again he needs to break the circle; to meet with his counterparts of Macedonia, Montenegro and create a more favorable position to later meet with the Prime Minister of Serbia. What problem is there in meeting of the Kosovo Minister of Education with his counterpart from Macedonia? Both of them are Albanians. And there is a reciprocal interest. Who can stop them to sign agreements to recognize reciprocal diplomas? Many Albanians have problems with the recognition in Macedonia of the diplomas they got in Kosovo. Therefore, Pristina has a bigger need for dialogue with Belgrade than Belgrade to talk with Pristina.

The only interest of Belgrade for dialogue with Pristina is to avoid the pressure from the internationals. Pristina should insist on an Albanian-Serb dialogue within Kosovo and on institutional relations between Pristina and Belgrade. It is against the interest of Kosovo to call the talks as Albanian-Serb.

It is high time Pristina took the initiative to impose an Albanian-Serb dialogue in Mitrovica, since there are many vital issues of concern for people there, which could be solved through dialogue.

The presence of a Serb University in Mitrovica has been supported by the author of this article and by the current Prime Minister of Kosovo. This is a lost opportunity to impose a dialogue. An opportunity to start the dialogue is the reconstruction of Ibr

mosque, or an Orthodox Church in Northern Mitrovica. How, when, why? The initiative and the pressure should come from Pristina and not be imposed on Pristina.

Grossman: Macedonia to be more supportive towards Kosovo (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reported that US State Department Under Secretary for Political Issues, Marc Grossman said yesterday that Macedonia should play a more active role toward Kosovo so that the latter can fulfill the standards.

As part of his Balkans tour, after visiting Kosovo, the high-ranking US diplomat visited Macedonia and Albania where he held meetings with Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski, Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski, BDI leader Ali Ahmeti, while in Tirana he met with President Alfred Moisiu, Prime Minister Fatos Nano and Deputy Foreign Minister Luan Hajdaraga.

‘If Kosovo fulfills the standards, we will be able to start the process of resolving Kosovo’s final status. In case progress is insufficient, there should be another date for such talks in the future. The US, Macedonia, the United Nations and nations in the region must play a more active role in this respect,’ Grossman said after meeting the Macedonian leadership. ‘Functioning democratic institutions, the rule of law, return of IDPs and refugees, freedom of movement for all ethnic minorities, trade economy, cooperation in all areas, dialogue with Belgrade, the definition of the Kosovo Protection Corps and the participation of minorities are the standards that must be fulfilled before moving on to the resolution of status.’

Grossman said that the US supports the commitment of SRSB Harri Holkeri in Kosovo in the implementation of the abovementioned standards. ‘The evaluation of the progress in fulfilling these standards will be done by mid-2005, and even earlier if there is sufficient progress,’ he added.

Grossman said that it would be a big advantage for the region if Kosovo manages to fulfill the standards, but he refused to say if independence was going to be the outcome of negotiations on the final status. ‘We are not talking about the independence of Kosovo. We are not talking about other options for Kosovo’s future status,’ Grossman added.

During his visit to Tirana, Grossman said that the Balkans could not be integrated into the European Union and NATO without the resolution of Kosovo’s final status.

Justice delayed in Kosovo (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reported that court cases in Kosovo don’t fail only because of a lack of evidence and witnesses, as it happens throughout the world. Apart from other reasons, cases also fail due to the lack of judges and prosecutors, and so thousands of cases and disputes remain unsolved.

Koha Ditore quoted Anton Nokaj, chairman of the Prishtina District Court as saying that the overall number of unresolved cases in this court is 3288, 720 of which are in the phase of investigation. This court also includes the municipalities of Lipjan, Ferizaj, Kacanik, Podujevo and Glllogoc.

Nokaj said that there were eleven judges currently working in this court, a number which at times can be reduced to ten or nine. 'It is very necessary to have fourteen judges, whereas it would require 20 judges to do normal work,' Nokaj added.

Nokaj also said that he has constantly asked for the appointment of new judges. 'In January this year, they made a request to appoint two judges; the vacancy announcement was made in April, and it was two months late. I find this meaningless, because as far as I know vacancy announcements are valid for 15 days, and not so long,' he added.

'Negligence,' said Nokaj, 'rests with the people who are responsible to fill the vacancies in the judicial bodies in Kosovo'. In the absence of the Ministry of Justice in Kosovo, the competencies in this case fall on the UNMIK Department of Justice.

Koha Ditore claims that Prishtina District Court doesn't face a better situation when it comes to solving cases and trial disputes. Currently there are 17.134 unsolved cases in this court.

Prishtina Municipal Court chairman Nuhi Uka said that the most difficult situation is in the executive level. 'We have made several requests for the appointment of judges, because sometimes a single judge has to handle 1,000 cases per year,' said Uka.

Uka said that he had also asked for better working conditions and for the return to the previous facility of the court. The paper noted that after the war, Prishtina Municipal Court has moved from its building, and that the UNMIK Justice Department and the Directorate of Prisons are now located there.

Uka also said that one of the possible solutions would be to create another municipal court for Prishtina that would handle cases from the municipalities of Fushë Kosovë, Novobrdë and Obiliç.

The paper claims that courts in other municipalities in Kosovo face the same problems. For example, in the Municipal Court of Gjilan are five six judges and five prosecutors.

Kapllan Baruti, chairman of the District Court of Mitrovica, also pointed out the same problem. 'The procedure of appointing new judges is very long,' he said.

'There is a certain limit and the internationals do not allow to increase the number of judges,' he said. Shala further said that there are lots of demands addressed to the Justice Department and the Prosecutor Council for completing this court, but 'the request were refused because of that limit'. Since 1999 there 1,478 cases that are still unsolved and this court also had no judge who deals with the cases of youths. The prosecutor of Peja district court, Flamur Kelemendi, expressed the same complaints. 'Since we have started, the staff completion has never happened,' he said. Peja court has only two prosecutors even though the number of cases has tripled. The department of Justice regulation has foreseen work for only five prosecutors, although the prosecutor and the court council announced since February vacancy for two more prosecutors.

The Department of the Judicial Administration presents the situation regarding the work of the municipal courts and also the work of the Supreme Court, as well as their effectiveness. According to such reports, the number of unsolved cases in the end of September was 78,816, while some of the cases were from the year 1999. Overall the unsolved cases in all courts are 8.514 while 111 cases belong to the economic courts. The Supreme Court has 817 unsolved cases in the last three months and all these figures produce a strange awful number of 88,258 unsolved cases. This is not all. The report further reveals 30,765 unsolved cases from the minor offence courts, therefore in total the figures of unsolved cases reach 119,023.

Apart from that, the report also reveals another anomaly that is related to the appointment of judges through the courts. For example, while Dragash, Suhareke, Vushtrri and Lipjan courts have five judges each, while Kaçanik court has only one judge.

The prime reason for having such large number of unsolved cases is the lack of judges and prosecutors. On the other hand cases still collect in the files of prosecutors and courts. Probably most of them will not be resolved, the paper concludes. What will happen if people get tired waiting? What will happen if they decide to make justice themselves?

Police believes it has information on triple killing of Stolic family (Koha/Zëri)

Koha Ditore reports that the Serious Crimes Unit has launched a largescale operation early Thursday morning in search of the killers of the three members of the Stolic family in Obilic.

Zëri reports that two sisters were arrested during the police operation.

On the other hand, **Epoka e Re** claims that according to reports from independent news agencies and sources on the ground, the police launched another failed and ridiculous operation.

Koha Ditore reports that the operation started at 3 p.m. and that by the time the article was printed the police said there were no arrests, while the Serb media reported that two sisters from Çerkezi family were arrested. B92 claimed that the two arrested were Albanians, citing some Serb media on a statement given by KPS spokesperson, Refki Morina, which was denied by the police information office and by Mr. Morina himself.

UNMIK Police spokesperson, Derek Chappell said that the police did not give names of those arrested and that the information floating through the Serb media was wrong. Chappell said that the 'action will continue until the search for these people is over and until enough evidence has been secured for the court.'

According to the newspaper's sources, a large number of witnesses have been questioned, including the son-in-law of the Stolics'.

Three members of the Stolic family were killed and their house set on fire in unclear circumstances on the night between 3 and 4 June.

This crime is mentioned by international and Serb representatives every time any ethnic incident in Kosovo is discussed.

I. Rexhepi: A reconciliation council for the KTA Board

Koha Ditore carried an opinion piece by Ibrahim Rexhepi who writes about recent developments at the Kosovo Trust Agency regarding the privatization process.

The decision for suspending the privatization process as well as the appointment of several managers at the KTA brought to attention great contradictions that exist within the KTA Board.

The grave problem in the KTA is the great gap of communication ('thick wall'), or the almost complete lack of communication between the locals and internationals in the KTA Board. The bizarre situation in the privatization process imposes the need for communication.

In this entire complicated situation occurred a big defect, which in fact is ruining the privatization process. The local members of the KTA Board Ali Jakupi, Ali Sadriu and Bahri Shabani mainly voice their personal opinions, because the institution that they represent has no position on the blocking of the process of privatization'.

The confusion is also assisted by the lack of a clear stance from the government regarding the latest developments in the privatization process. It is well known that the government supports the idea of carrying on the privatization, but in reality this is just a statement for the media and not a government stance. The Kosovo government hasn't met yet to discuss this issue in order to have a clear position. Having in mind the importance of the process, it would not be inappropriate if the government of Kosovo presented conditions and pressure in order to restart the process.

Kosovars spent more money on cigarettes than on milk and meat (Koha)

Koha Ditore carries an article claiming that the export ratio of Kosovo covers only 3.3 % of the import. For the import of milk and dairies 7 € million have been spent over the last eight months, 10 million for eggs, 1 million about wheat and flour, while for cigarettes € 51 million.

Kosovo has the lowest rate of export in the region, only 3.3 % of the import. According to a survey carried out by the Microeconomic Division within the Ministry of Economy and Finance, compared to last year, the first eight months revealed that there has been a decrease in the import of goods from 663 million to 630 million. This is in contradiction to what Paul Acda, director of the Customs stated this year that they expected the import of Kosovo for this year to reach € 2 billion. And according to him, every Kosovar spends around € 1000 per year for imported goods. According to the survey the largest part of the money Kosovars spend goes for the imported food. Out of 630 million, 300 million only for foodstuff. For the moment Kosovo meets only 20 % of the needs, but with the change of economic policies there are capacities to fulfill up to 75 % of the needs with local production, according to the survey.