

UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

Media Monitoring

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20 November

Plan for operationalization of standards to be announced on December 1st? (Zëri)

Citing diplomatic sources, Zëri claims that on November 19th the representatives of the Contact Group countries in Pristina have received the latest version of the plan for the operationalization of standards. This version reportedly includes the remarks and proposals made by the UN Administration in New York.

Zëri claims that the Contact Group countries were asked to offer their assessment of the plan by November 21 and make eventual suggestions that would then be included in the final version, which according to the procedure would then be approved by the UN in New York. 'If everything goes according to UNMIK's plan, the public announcement of the final proposal for the operationalization of the standards will be made on December 1st,' added the paper.

The same sources told the paper that there were no serious problems in completing the plan and that remarks and suggestions of the UN administration and other Contact Group member states were not substantial.

On the other hand, the UNMIK office was intensively preparing the plan led by the British Carne Ross, it had established good working relations with the Government of Kosovo and there were no big obstacles there either.

However, it was not yet known whether UNMIK would be able to prepare the plan on operationalization of benchmarks and assessment tools before Christmas.

Most probably, the paper carries on, UNMIK and Kosovar authorities would try to implement benchmarks together and not to put obligations on one or the other side in this process.

Probably, the finalization of the package of the benchmarks was expected to happen at the beginning of next year, though UNMIK would try to finish it by mid December, the article concludes.

Daci: Kosovans will finish their duties in time (Zëri)

Zëri quoted Kosovo Assembly Speaker Nexhat Daci as saying that Kosovans would finish their part of the job in fulfilling the standards before the end of 2004.

Daci however added that the international community should not accuse Kosovo for not fulfilling standards, which are not in the hands of Kosovans.

‘No country in south-east Europe and maybe even in central Europe can meet these standards in one or two years, but there are some priorities in these standards, if Kosovan citizens on the municipal and central levels are willing to do the things that are required from us,’ said Daci. ‘First they tell us that tolerance is the key standard, then they say that dialogue with Belgrade is the key standard. We can do these things with better inter-Kosovan cooperation. We are going to finish all the duties that are in our competencies before the designated date.’

Pack: We must find a way to make Kosovo independent as soon as possible

Koha Ditore quoted Doris Pack, Chairperson of the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with the Countries of South East Europe, as saying that the international community should find a way to make Kosovo independent as soon as possible, because the current political trends were suitable neither for Kosovo nor for Serbia.

Pack said that she didn’t know the exact date when independence was going to be achieved, but added that it should be done as soon as possible. ‘On the other hand, an independent Kosovo would have to show the utmost respect for the rights of minorities living there,’ said Pack. ‘We must find a way to make Kosovo independent, but this path must guarantee the respect of all minorities living there’.

Koha Ditore noted that Pack made these statements during a lecture that she gave before 20 students (Albanians, Serbs, French and German) at the seat of the European Parliament in Strasbourg last Thursday.

‘The independence of Kosovo should be done only under strict conditions, so that it respects neighboring borders,’ she added. ‘I don’t know when this can happen, but I do know that it is going to happen rather soon. When Serbia and Montenegro will decide whether or not they want to remain together, and I think that this is going to be in 2004, then we must look more clearly about what is going to be done with Kosovo.’

Pack claimed that a resolution has been prepared and that it requires a bigger role of the European Union in this issue. ‘We shouldn’t wait until 2004 and then say we don’t know what to do. I know that this is a major problem and that the so-called big shots don’t make long-term politics,’ Pack said.

Pack also commented on the current political situation in Kosovo and the position of minorities. ‘I don’t like the way Kosovo-Albanians behave toward Kosovo-Serbs,’ said Pack, adding that Albanians should provide better conditions for Serbs. ‘Albanians are the ones that should create the conditions for co-existence. I am not saying that you should love each other, but you can coexist.’

According to *Koha Ditore*, Pack criticized Kosovan leaders, saying that politicians and political leaders should do more in improving the position of minorities. ‘Your politicians should start doing more in this direction. The responsibility for this falls on

them. They should think more about the future. You cannot enter Europe with enclaves,' she added.

Pack said that everyone should harshly condemn the recent killings of Serbs in Kosovo. 'Albanians are saying that they haven't committed these killings, but nonetheless, everyone who lives there must go out on the street and protest. Someone should start doing this, and I think that the leaders must do this... There are some Kosovo-Serbs who don't love Kosovo and dream of a comeback of Serbia, but I am certain that the majority of Kosovo-Serbs want coexistence,' concluded Pack.

Prime Minister of Luxembourg visits Kosovo (all dailies)

All dailies carried reports from the visit of the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Jean-Claude Juncker to Kosovo.

Koha Ditore reported that Juncker reiterated the position of the international community towards the implementation of "standards before status". The paper also claims that during his separate meetings with the UNMIK chief and Kosovan political leaders, Juncker focused mostly on economic issues.

'We are now at the point where we think that the European Union must focus on economic and social problems, and we have agreed that the situation will be reviewed in 2005 and this is an initiative that is not going to violate the Resolution 1244,' Juncker said during a press briefing after meeting with Kosovo chief administrator Harri Holkeri.

'The fulfillment of standards by 2005 is a difficult task, both for the international community and for Kosovo, but Kosovo must go through this phase,' Juncker was quoted as saying.

After meeting the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, President Ibrahim Rugova stated: 'We talked about economic development, privatization, new jobs, the integration of ethnic groups in Kosovo, and now we also have the period of evaluating the situation in Kosovo and this is called standards and we want to fulfill them as soon as possible, to have a democratic, tolerant and independent Kosovo, integrated in the European Union and NATO'.

Juncker said, 'We have discussed with President Rugova the action for the implementation of standards before status in the most efficient way. The year 2005 is an important year for all of us because Luxembourg is going to hold the chairmanship of the European Union'.

Institutions blame UNMIK Legal Office for slow work (Zëri)

Zëri carries the reactions of the Kosovan institutions regarding the recent critics made by the Kosovan Institute for Research and Documentation (KODI). Kosovo Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi blamed UNMIK's Legal Office to work too slowly in compiling laws. On the other hand, Assembly Speaker Nexhat Daci said that even in the European Parliament it takes three to six months to bring a law to the voting process.

The heads of the Kosovo institutions have neither denied nor completely admitted the critics of their work by the Kosovo Institute for Research and Documentation (KODI). KODI has concluded in its report that the Kosovo institutions work more for their parties than for the people, and that the political parties have set up employment policies, says Professor Enver Hoxhaj, the head of KODI institute.

‘There can be truth in it, but that is only a part, since the procedure of passing laws to the parliament is the one it is. Passing laws or the procedure to pass laws is not an obstacle, but it is the work of the Parliamentary commissions and delays from the Legal Office of UNMIK’ the PM of Kosovo, Bajram Rexhepi said yesterday.

According to him the procedures of drafting laws within the ministries are ‘too complicated’. ‘This is the critic that stands, since these procedures complicate things even further, and easier ways should be found’, Rexhepi says.

PM Rexhepi also said that relations with UNMIK’s Legal Office have had their ups and downs. ‘The relations with them are sometimes good, sometimes not’, he said.

Daci said that he likes to hear such analysis and supports them, but that they need to understand parliamentary traditions; in the European Parliaments it takes three to six months to bring a law to the voting process, while here it takes five weeks the longest. Asked whether it is true that the Assembly talks more about folklore than about vital issues, Daci replied ‘There are such elements and they are a result of the time, let us not forget that this is the first parliament internationally recognized, and created in a very difficult time’.

Daci concluded that they do not fear critics, but they welcome them as they help them move ahead.

Govt recommends: Demand resignation of highest-ranking KTA officials (*Koha*)

Citing reliable sources, *Koha Ditore* reports that the Kosovo Government has asked its two ministers who represent the government in the Managing Board of the Kosovo Trust Agency (KTA) to hold the KTA Board chairman Nikolaus Lambsdorff responsible for his actions, request his resignation from his post and to request suspension of KTA General Manager Marie Fucci and of the leaders of the KTA Legal Office.

The Kosovo government has justified its request for the dismissal and resignation of the KTA officials because of the suspension of the third privatization round, non-approval of the first and second round, as well as preparation of new operational policies without the approval of the KTA board members, the paper’s sources claimed.

The Kosovo government has directed its two ministers, Ali Sadriu and Ali Jakupi, who are members of the KTA Board, not to accept the review of the SOEs status, its sources said.

The Government has also directed its two ministers to tell the KTA Board that there is no need to review the status of the enterprises, the paper further reported. The ministers were also advised to demand from the KTA Board approval of the second

and the third privatization round. They [ministers] must seek written confirmation regarding those privatization cases.

‘We will ask for accountability from the KTA officials and if this is not a case, we will seek other solutions,’ said Jakupi.

Government sources also announced that they could demand all competencies related to privatization if this process does not continue without problems.

The leader of the Kosovo unions [BSPK], Bahri Shabani, fully agreed with the government’s stance. The demands that Shabani would raise at the KTA Board meeting are similar to the government’s recommendations. ‘I will ask not to review the enterprises’ status and also to endorse contracts of the first and the second round of privatization. If this is unacceptable, I will ask for the resignation of the KTA Board chief, its general manager and head of the legal office,’ he said.

The paper further reported that only the Minister of Agriculture Goran Bogdanovic had accepted UNMIK’s recommendations.

The Kosovo government announced that it is formulating its response and talks would continue till Friday, *Koha Ditore* reported.

‘The Kosovo government doesn’t want to complicate issues by issuing a press release in haste,’ the government spokeswoman Mimoza Kusari said.

Zëri claimed that Kosovars would withdraw from the Kosovo Trust Agency if privatization doesn’t resume soon. The paper further reported that SRSG Holkeri reached an agreement with the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, whereby the latter would ask the Security Council members to forward all cases to the Special Chamber of the Kosovo Supreme Court. However, the paper further reported that the legal systems in UN Security Council members states (US, UK and France) were separated from the government, therefore the government’s suggestions might be ignored.

The representatives of the UN legal office in New York during a meeting with the SRSG assessed that there is no reason to stop the privatization process and the government will carry on talks with the KTA structures for continuing this process, Ms. Kusari said.

Shala: KEK: The best news these days (Zëri)

In a front-page editorial for Zëri, Blerim Shala wrote:

Who would have believed just a couple of weeks ago that the best news these days would be the Kosovo Power Corporation, that is the supply with electricity. We are used to having KEK on the top of the list of major problems in Kosovo, therefore, we have to admit that despite the concerning announcements we have had plenty of electricity recently.

I guess we shouldn't say it out loud that we hope that KEK will continue with this habit. Otherwise, 'reductions' have taken on more dangerous dimensions in other areas, where only two months ago there was optimism for swift and essential changes in political and economic developments in Kosovo.

The worst example here is the privatization, on which everybody swore, both locals and internationals. The Kosovo Trust Agency plans to become more of an obstacle than a moving force in the process of privatization. If those in the leadership of the KTA do not believe that privatization in Kosovo can be successful, it would be better if they say so and leave the KTA.

One cannot be in the KTA and at the same time oppose the process of privatization. After all, we are all tired of the verbal support for privatization.

Last week there was an impression that the dangerous landslide in Kosovo was coming to a halt. It seemed that a new mood, first of all the one related to the operationalization of standards would help to launch processes that should change the situation in Kosovo and prepare this society for the period of resolving the issue of status. This optimism was for short-term use.

Jakupi: Stability Pact failed in Kosovo, we should give up illusions (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore carried an interview with the Minister of Trade and Industry, Ali Jakupi where he spoke about the Stability Pact Ministerial meeting on Regional Trade held last week in Rome.

Disappointed that the Kosovo government and UNMIK's representatives were left aside in last week's conference on Free Trade in Rome, Jakupi said that he is obliged to give his opinion on the real situation that Kosovo is currently facing at international conferences. He also assessed that Kosovo's position is getting worse every day.

What has really happened at the meeting of the Stability Pact ministers in Rome?

In Rome the inter minister's conference was held where the free trade agreements amongst countries of south and east Europe were discussed. Apart from being physically present, UNMIK representatives and myself didn't achieve concrete results. Even UNMIK itself was bypassed.

Who should be held responsible and what are the consequences?

Rome was the contrary to the happenings in Vienna. There are lots of elements that impacted, but the prime responsibility belongs to UNMIK. The international administration should be prepared for participation as an equal partner and engage actively in entering free trade agreements. The consequences will be very grave. Kosovo will not be an equal partner under these circumstances but will only be used as a market for countries of the region.

Why are developments in establishing free trade with countries of the region usually praised by local officials while reality seems to be quite contrary?

We had illusions that Kosovo was making major steps in free trade. However, the participation in Rome showed the contrary. Countries of the region and other

countries are only interested in using Kosovo as their market, and are not interested in establishing a normal integration process.

The Stability Pact coordinator Mr. Busek has received lots of prizes by the Kosovan representatives regarding his big work for integrating Kosovo in the regional as well as in the European organizations.

The Stability Pact coordinator Erhard Busek has continuously repeated that Kosovo will not remain a black hole in the region, but in order for this statement to have effect it must become a reality. This effect was not shown in the concluding conference of the Stability Pact that foresees the establishment of a market of 55 million inhabitants, where Kosovo is excluded. We cannot get developed if we are isolated. In the Rome conference Kosovo remained a black hole in the region.

What is your assessment concerning the Stability Pact in Kosovo?

Stability Pact has failed in Kosovo and Kosovo had almost no benefit from this institution. The problem does not consist in the lack of serious projects as some claim, but in the absence of Kosovo's statehood, which is brought up every time.

How can we overcome this situation?

Kosovo should sign agreements with each country. UNMIK should play a major role and should be more active. The situation could be overcome only if UNMIK takes an active role in its responsibilities.

For the situation to change, UNMIK must have a strategy and must recruit skilled people with visions and willing to work for the benefit of Kosovo.

Surroi: M factor: Mitrovica – Macedonia (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore carried an opinion piece by publisher Veton Surroi, who writes, 'The territorial division of Kosovo on an ethnic basis seriously endangers the concept of Macedonia as a state'.

1.

During the recent visit of the American diplomat in the Balkans, Grossman, Macedonian leaders, who are involved in the solution of the Kosovo issue, have asked for two things. One was to clearly and officially define the borders between Kosovo and Macedonia and the other to accept Macedonia as a stabilizing entity in NATO. For both things Macedonia got an answer in due time, that is to say, that they are to be solved after the status of Kosovo has been defined.

What is of interest for this story is not the requests of the Macedonian side, but the implied messages of these requests that conditions for the status of Kosovo are almost ripe, and that Macedonia needs to be assured that this process will positively affect it. Furthermore, the evolution within Macedonia itself seems encouraging. During the eighties, Macedonian politicians from the communist camp were almost radical spokespersons of the Serbian policy; they were more catholic than the Pope. While, during the nineties, the only thing coming from Macedonia relating to Kosovo, was that if Kosovo got independent, it would destabilize Macedonia.

2.

It seems to me that times have changed in Macedonia and that the majority of sober politicians are convinced that Kosovo will conclude its process of becoming independent. But, as I could notice in a public debate in Skopje a few weeks ago, this instinctive feeling about future developments is associated with a dose of insecurity. And no doubt there is a reason for it, since any change in the situation in the former Yugoslavia has affected the neighbors.

In fact, there are reasons to be concerned in Skopje and in Pristina. The reason for worries is the Factor M, namely the symbol of ethnic division in Kosovo; the town of Mitrovica. From after the war in Kosovo until now, partly because of a lack of sense among Albanian leaders to lead an interethnic tolerant policy, and partly because of the old Serb project for the partition of Kosovo, we have the division of Mitrovica and other areas inhabited with Serbs that are beyond the Kosovo administration. The other reason of the existence of this division is simple, when the time of the definition of Kosovo status comes, with its inevitable independence, Serb extremist politicians will ask for the separation of this part and unite it with Serbia.

The effects of such a thing in Kosovo would be as follows; Serb population would move from areas where they are in minority to areas they are in majority, and this would initiate an Albanian movement with the same extremism asking for compensation with the Preshevo Valley. The logic would be simple, if Serbs can detach a part from Kosovo's territory, then why wouldn't the Albanians detach a part from Serbia's territory.

3.

What are Macedonia's connections to all this 'trade'. Double. First, because any destabilization in the Preshevo Valley would affect security in Macedonia, since as we have seen in the past, the guerrilla usually focuses on the border triangle among Serbia, Kosovo and Macedonia.

Second, the division of Kosovo would mean a victory for a new concept; divisions based on ethnicity. The last war in Macedonia brought to surface two conceptual solutions; ethnic territories, embraced at last by the former Prime Minister Georgevski, and the integrated consensual state, represented by the Ohrid agreement. The concept of ethnic territories would bring an end to the Macedonia we know, and would be a horror for the ordinary people; hundreds of thousands of them would be forced to move from 'their' part to 'ours'.

A negative concept in the vicinity of Macedonia would be an adventurous invitation for the same thing to happen in Macedonia. The logic would be as simple as with the case of the Preshevo valley; if Albanians and Serbs can draw historical division lines at last, why can't the Albanians and Macedonians do the same. Supporters of this idea among Albanians and Macedonians would have to realize that to draw ethnic lines means the use of violence. The practice in former Yugoslavia has shown that war was the best accelerator for 'population exchange', as expelling of population from their homes is called in economical terms.

4.

In fact, Kosovo and Macedonia paradoxically are not only linked with the danger of a negative concept. If we take another perspective, despite evident differences, both societies have jointly invested in the other concept, the one of integration in a consensual state. The biggest political investment in Macedonia today is the Ohrid Agreement, and the reforming of a state that was based on the domination over

Albanians. This should be a lesson for Kosovo. In Kosovo, too, with more efforts than in Macedonia, it is possible to build a concept of rights and obligations for ethnic communities, in order for them to feel integrated in the new state.

The truth is that this is a challenge, be it for Kosovans or for Belgrade, which so far has only used the card of keeping Serbs a hostage of future negotiations on the status.

It seems to me that the basic question that Macedonian politicians should tackle today is not whether Kosovo would get independent or not, but the way it reaches it, and how to build good relations with a new internationally recognized state.

Kakuk: There were false information...(Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore carried a report about new measures that international officials would set up in Mitrovica, regarding reporters.

Officials from UNMIK, DPI, OSCE, UNMIK police and KFOR press office, fixed up new rules in order to communicate with reporters, said UNMIK spokesperson in Mitrovica Georgy Kakuk. He added that a few media had faked information provided by the international administration.

‘Some reporters from Mitrovica publish reports while not even being present at the press conferences that internationals organize once per week. Quotes are not only a fabrication but in direct contradiction to what we say,’ Kakuk was quoted as saying.

‘UNMIK will require to meet editors of all papers in order to create basic regulations and professional standards for all reporters,’ Kakuk concluded.

KTA does not reveal conditions of contract with Monaco Telecom (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reported that the PTK had extended the contract of Monaco Telecom for another year.

The contract with Monaco Telecom has been extended for one more year, according to PTK sources, while the KTA did not publish details of this contract, *Koha Ditore* reported.

The paper further reported that even the Ministry of Transport and Communications wasn’t informed about it.

The KTA said that the ‘PTK had extended the existing contract with Monaco Telecom with improved conditions’. The KTA’s divisional manager responsible for PTK Ineke Botter said that ‘specific conditions of the contract are confidential but we have the pleasure to announce that negotiations were successful and this time we have a better contract’.

Italbeton has worked only for internationals (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that the organization suspected of being involved in organized crime, Italbeton, has worked only for internationals, including KFOR and the

European Agency for Reconstruction, although it was known for quite sometime that this company was involved in criminal activities.

‘Italbeton’ never won tenders from the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Telecommunication, the Road Directorate or in Gjakova town where its base is located.



Division of Public Information

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Kosovo Media Highlights

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Zëri claims that Kosovars will withdraw from the Kosovo Trust Agency if privatization doesn't resume soon.

Prime Minister of Luxembourg visits Kosovo (all dailies)

All dailies carried reports from the visit by the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Jean Claude Juncker to Kosovo. *Koha Ditore* reports that Juncker has reiterated the position of the international community for the implementation of standards before status. The paper also claims that during his separate meetings with the UNMIK chief and Kosovar political leaders, Juncker focused most on economic issues.

'The fulfillment of standards by 2005 is a difficult task both for the international community and for Kosovo, but Kosovo must go through this phase,' Juncker was quoted as saying.

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Zëri claims that by November 21st, the Contact Group countries must offer their assessment of the plan and make eventual suggestions that would then be included in the final version, and this according to the procedure, would be approved by the UN in New York. 'If everything goes according to UNMIK's plan, the public announcement of the final proposal for the operationalization of standards will be made on December 1st,' added the paper.

Holkeri signs law on access to official documents (Koha Ditore)

Under the headline *The time has come to open all cards*, *Koha Ditore* reports that Kosovo chief administrator Harri Holkeri has signed on Wednesday the Law on Access to Official Documents.

'There are many deficiencies that could be corrected with the proper implementation of this law. The lack of transparency in Kosovo has so far been on the highest possible level,' *Koha Ditore* added.

Pack: We must find a way to make Kosovo independent as soon as possible

Koha Ditore quotes Doris Pack, chairperson of the European Parliament Commission for South-East Europe, as saying that the international community should find a way to make Kosovo independent as soon as possible, because the current political trends are suitable neither for Kosovo nor for Serbia.

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Daci: Kosovars will finish their duties in time (Zëri)

Zëri quotes Kosovo Assembly Speaker Nexhat Daci as saying that Kosovars will finish their part of the job in fulfilling the standards before the end of 2004. Daci however added that the international community should not accuse Kosovo for standards, which are not in the hands of Kosovars.

Thaçi: PDK isn't against standards, but we don't want to be their victims (Zëri)

Zëri carries a report from the fourth anniversary of the Kosovo Democratic Party (PDK) branch in Gjilan. PDK leader Hashim Thaçi was quoted as saying, 'The PDK is not against standards, but we don't either want to become victims of these standards and have others do our work. We have stated that we embrace and work for the implementation of standards, because they pave way for Kosovo's integration in Euro-Atlantic structures'.

State Department: AKSH doesn't meet criteria for terrorist organization (Koha)

Koha Ditore quotes assistant spokesperson for the US State Department, J. Adam Ereli, as saying, 'There are certain specific criteria to be included in the US list of terrorist organizations, which the Albanian National Army (AKSH) hasn't fulfilled'.

Surroi: M factor: Mitrovica – Macedonia (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore carried an opinion piece by publisher Veton Surroi, who writes, 'The territorial division of Kosovo on ethnic basis seriously endangers the concept of Macedonia as a state'. [full translation in afternoon *Media Analysis*]

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Kostunica wants Moscow to postpone resolution of Kosovo's status (Zëri)

Citing information broadcast by Serbian media, Vojislav Kostunica, leader of the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) met yesterday with Aleksandar Aleksejev, director European Affairs at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Kostunica said that the early and immediate resolution of Kosovo's status would endanger security, whereas the independence of Kosovo would have fatal consequences for the stability of the region.

Italbeton has worked only for internationals (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that the organization suspected of being involved in organized crime, Italbeton, has worked only for internationals, including KFOR and the European Agency for Reconstruction, although it was known for quite sometime that this company was involved in criminal activities.

Albanian judge in Mitrovica arrested on corruption charges (Zëri)

Zëri quotes UNMIK Police spokeswoman in Mitrovica, Tracy Becker, as saying that an Albanian judge working in Mitrovica Municipal Court was arrested on charges of corruption. No further details were provided.

Kosovo Press Headlines

Koha Ditore

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- **Italbeton has worked only for internationals**
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- **SRSB signs bill on access to official documents**

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Carlo Civilletti's interview for Politika (*Politika*)

The recommendations on the reform of the local self-administration and public administration done by the Mission of the CoE were submitted on Tuesday, 18 November, to UNMIK, as well as to provisional institutions in Kosovo. The document has been drafted on the basis of regulations of the chapter on local self-administration of the European Human Rights Convention, along with the respect of the specific situation in Kosovo and Metohija. We tried to find the simplest solutions, to have an efficient organization of the administration, to have an inexpensive reform, as well as for the process to be sustainable and acceptable for all political groups in Kosovo and Metohija. The Ambassador and Head of the Mission of the CoE for Decentralization in Kosovo and Metohija, Carlo Civilletti, said this in an interview for Politika. The main goal of the reform of the local self-administration in Kosovo and Metohija is to draw closer the institutions of the local self-administration to citizens, who should achieve through them their needs, but also to participate in bringing decisions important for life in certain surroundings, said Ambassador Civilletti.

US Ambassador on Kosovo (*Politika/Beta*)

Speaking about Kosovo, US Ambassador in Belgrade William Montgomery has stated that the plan that envisages that talks on Kosovo's final status could begin in mid 2005, if it is then estimated that sufficient progress is made in the province in fulfilling democratic standards, is the plan, which the Contact Group and UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri had agreed with. "This is now a generally accepted plan the key of which is the establishment of standards and an estimate of how much progress has been made in their fulfillment," he added. Montgomery stressed that there was absolutely no decision on Kosovo's final status, nor a decision on what would be decided when progress is to be estimated in mid 2005 in achieving democratic standards. Only if this estimate is positive can we go on to the next phase, the talks on Kosovo's future, he said, adding that the authorities in Belgrade, and those in Kosovo as far as he knows, understand and support this plan. "Belgrade very much supports the dialogue with Pristina, and it had already appointed representatives for working groups that should continue the dialogue. Now we are waiting for the Kosovo side to do the same," Montgomery said, confirming that the international community would insist on having minorities in the Pristina delegation as well.

UNMIK handed over duty (*Danas/Fonet*)

UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri said that all municipalities in Kosovo were functioning and that the UN Mission had handed over its duties in the municipalities and withdrew from executive offices, but that it was still monitoring and assisting, taking into account the CoE's mandate, the consolidation of local institutions, UNMIK said in a statement.

Two Kosovo ministers unsatisfied with UN recommendations (*Blic*)

If UNMIK attempts to implement UNSC's recommendations to implement a revision of the privatization process of socially owned companies in Kosovo and Metohija, two ministers in the Kosovo government, members of the KTA Board, will leave their posts in the board, it is the conclusion of a Kosovo government session. "The two of them are not accepting the stand by the UNSC to implement a revision of the already implemented privatization process, Kosovo government minister Goran Bogdanovic told *Blic*.

Albanian arrested in Mitrovica (*Vecernje Novosti/Fonet*)

UNMIK police regional spokesperson Tracy Baker has told *Fonet* that the policemen of the southern police station in Mitrovica arrested a local judge, a Kosovo Albanian, suspected of corruption. UNMIK police arrested the magistrate of the Municipal court in Mitrovica Jusuf Berisha for receiving bribe, while *Fonet* learned that the international judge is dealing with this case.

Chappell: Better in Kosovo (*Glas/Tanjug*)

The security situation in Kosovo and Metohija is improving every year and people here should understand that, assessed UNMIK police spokesperson Derek Chappell. Chappell told local radio *Contact Plus* in Mitrovica that the number of serious criminal acts, such as murder, had been reduced by 50%.

G17 plus advocates Ministry for Kosovo and Metohija (*Vecernje Novosti*)

There would be a ministry of finance, foreign affairs, while the CCK would be turned into a special ministry. "The Ministry for Kosovo and Metohija is necessary in order to pay more attention to this problem, and to raise this issue to a higher level," said Goran Paunovic, the president of the Executive Board of G17 plus. This party believes that the CCK has been "wandering" between the two governments, the Serbian and the federal, and that the time is right for Serbia to fully take over these obligations.

Serbian Renewal Movement(SPO)-New Serbia(NS) advocates cantonization of Kosovo and Metohija (*Vecernje Novosti*)

We will fight for the new constitution to define Serbia as the state of the Serb people and home for all Serbs in the world. Kosovo and Metohija is for us an inseparable part of Serbia, and we will favor cantonization of this province, along with outmost self-administration of Serb municipalities, where security would be maintained by international forces and local Serb police forces. We are for a joint state of Serbia and Montenegro, but to be set up as a state. Otherwise, we are for a sovereign Serbia, said SPO leader Vuk Draskovic and NS leader Ilic.

Leposavic to resolve water-supply problems (*Balkan*)

With the funds of the CCK and of the European Agency for Reconstruction and Development, a water factory is being built in Leposavic, in the Gornji tvrđan settlement, which will provide the inhabitants of this municipality in northern Kosovo with sufficiently good-quality drinking water. Clean spring water will be arriving to Leposavic from Mt. Kopaonik, since it is filtered and chlorated in the water factory. Presently, the locals are having trouble with water since mire often comes from the local water pipe into the faucet. The European Agency for Reconstruction and

Development has ensured 100.000 euros for the construction of the water factory, and the CCK ensured 12 million dinars. New aid of another 29 million dinars from the CCK is expected in Leposavic.