

# UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

## Media Monitoring

# ▶ **Local Media**

## ▶ **Media Analysis**

**27 November**

### Complete plan on operationalization of standards early next year? (Zëri)

*Zëri quotes international sources in Prishtina as saying that the publication of the Plan for the Operationalization of Standards could be postponed again.*

‘The reasons for this delay are related to the lack of synchronization of eventual suggestions and remarks by the Contact Group and the UN Administration,’ *Zëri* added.

The liaison offices of the Contact Group countries in Prishtina are waiting to get the positions of their governments, which should round up the response of the Contact Group. UNMIK and the Quint representatives are expected to hold another meeting this week, during which they would clarify all eventual dilemmas. There are no indications that there can be serious problems on UNMIK’s final proposal. However, the UN Administration must also give its reply to this, and the Security Council will most probably have to give its approval for the final version of standards. The support for this part of the package of standards would enable UNMIK’s team, which works under the leadership of Carne Ross to accelerate the completion of more delicate parts of the package, which are related to the process of implementing operationalized standards and designating the mechanisms for the evaluation of standards.

It was always said that this is the most complicated part of the whole package. Therefore, bearing in mind this evaluation and the delays that have characterized the first phase, it is too optimistic and a bit unrealistic to expect that the final version of the plan is going to be completed and then supported by the Contact Group and the Security Council before Christmas and New Year.

If this happens, if the final completion of the plan is postponed for early 2004, then these delays could affect a hope-giving mood in the Kosovo Government, which was created by the visit of US Assistant Secretary of State Marc Grossman.

### **Shala: Pledge and blockage (Zëri)**

*In a front-page editorial in Zëri, Blerim Shala claims that for the time being all the energy is being wasted in trying to determine who is guilty of blocking of the privatization in Kosovo.*

No matter what its status is going to be, Kosovo is going to be part of Europe. This is the reason why Kosovo should be prepared in all possible ways for the European processes of integration. In this context, Kosovo can get special assistance from the concept of standards before status, the Tracking Mechanism of the Stabilization and Association, and so on and so on.

We can keep on mentioning these sentences all day long, because we have all learned them by heart. In theory they are all clear. But the fact is that the practice in Kosovo is in absolute contravention with theory. There is no need to give examples for this. It is well known (in theory) that reforms in the economies of the former communist countries and the establishment of a functioning economy largely depend on privatization and foreign investments. Without a functioning economy we cannot even dream of integration into the European Union.

In Kosovo, as can be seen a lot recently, there is an essential opposition between the pledge for privatization and the actual stalemate of the process. For the time being, all the energy is being wasted in trying to determine who is guilty of blocking of the privatization in Kosovo.

The Kosovo Government is certain that UNMIK Pillar IV head Nikolaus Lambsdorff and KTA director Marie Fucci are guilty of this. Now the request of the government is clear: the resignation of Fucci and of the senior officials of the KTA. Fucci was appointed to this post although the Albanian representatives at KTA had three votes against her appointment. This fact should be sufficient for her not to be appointed to this position, if we had normal relations between UNMIK and the local government. Anyway the request of the government will find it difficult to come to life, if all Kosovan officials do not support it.

### **If Privatization fails, government should be blamed (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore carries a report from the Kosovo Economist League anniversary.*

UNMIK Pillar IV is responsible for the privatization process but with its confusing policy it is ruining the entire Kosovo economy, was the conclusion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Kosovo's Economy League.

‘Both success and failure of the privatization process are in the responsibility of UNMIK Pillar IV, because the EU pillar prepared the form and the model of the privatization process,’ said Musa Limani professor of Economy at Pristina University. He added that a failure of the privatization process does mean failure of all the reforms in Kosovo, but this mustn't happen.

He further added that UNMIK's policy is sending Kosovo into a deep crisis and is also causing extreme poverty. ‘Considering the economic policy lead by the UNMIK Pillar IV, we may say such policy had ruined Kosovo's economy,’ said Limani.

Chairman of the Kosovo Economist League, Nuri Bashota, said that the government is just interpreting UNMIK's orders. 'There is no cooperation between UNMIK and the government, UNMIK is still the prime authority, while the government is only an observer,' Bashota was quoted as saying.

### **Forum 2015: Standards turn into a slogan of UNMIK and Govt (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that Forum 2015 yesterday organized a public debate on 'standards before status'.

'Kosovo has lost a year due to the absence of strategic policies. To say that Kosovo must fulfill standards, you must also be able to say who are the ones that will bear the burden of responsibility,' said publisher Veton Surroi.

So far, there hasn't been a public debate organized on benchmarks and on the draft for their operationalization. Neither UNMIK nor the Kosovo Assembly nor the political parties have considered it necessary to debate and see how the society accepts the benchmarks, and what the ways of operationalization should be in the path towards independence and integration in Europe.

Forum 2015 this time gathered personalities from the civil society, UNMIK and Governmental officials.

It was said in the meeting that the 'distance and inefficiency between UNMIK and Kosovo institutions has never been wider'.

Participants also tackled ways to build up and reform the institutions of Kosovo, practices not well prepared, like the dialogue with Belgrade, freedom of movement, sustainable returns, economic situation, rule of law etc.

Surroi also recalled that Forum 2015 before and after the Summit in Thessaloniki had warned that the policy toward Kosovo was to change, and not to be drafted carelessly. When the idea of benchmarks appeared, some of us supported it but also warned about some shortcomings like the lack of operationalization policy, lack of timeframe, and lack of clear definition of who was responsible to fulfill the standards, said Surroi.

Carne Ross, UNMIK coordinator for strategy, said that "partnership" is the key word and our duty is to create a functional partnership between UNMIK and the Kosovo Government, and then we can talk about who really has the competencies to fulfill the standards. 'Harri Holkeri wants to be the last administrator of Kosovo and the work he is doing shows he wants to prepare local institutions for more responsibilities and to be able to govern the country', he says adding that the two sides should cooperate in order to ensure a democratic functioning.

The head of the "Kosovo Action for Civic Initiative" (KACI), Ylber Hysa said that more than one year has been wasted and 'standards before status' has become a slogan for internationals and an obligation for locals. According to him meeting benchmarks alone is impossible for the local authorities since many of them directly depend on reserved powers for UNMIK.

Hysa took KPC as an example, where the lowest salary is € 75 and the highest € 310 for commanders, and although Serbs have been recruited, it still cannot be attractive for minorities. This makes it even more difficult to reach the standards, said Hysa.

Other participants emphasized that more competencies should be transferred to local institutions before asking them to meet the standards.

### **Third meeting of the Stabilization and Association process Tracking Mechanism (dailies)**

*All dailies report that the third meeting between the Kosovo Government, UNMIK and the representatives of the European Commission for the Stabilization and Association process Tracking Mechanism was held yesterday in Pristina. The meeting was chaired by SRSJ Harri Holkeri.*

*According to **Koha Ditore**, European officials voiced their concern on issues such as the budget, returns, crime, media, privatization, history books and the leveling of salaries.*

The meeting started on Wednesday and is to continue on Thursday and is being held in the Ministry of Public Services.

The spokesperson of Kosovo's Government, Mimoza Kusari, says that European officials had kept a close eye on the developments in Kosovo since the last meeting that was held in July. 'They are asking responsibilities from Kosovo's institutions and from UNMIK. The first day resembled a test, since the EU officials asked Kosovans many questions.

The Stabilization and Association process Tracking Mechanisms (STM) started a process in March aiming at directing Kosovo on a special path towards possible integration into the EU.

### **KTA made mistakes in the process of selecting KEK's new management (Koha Ditore)**

***Koha Ditore** reports that complaint from a Canadian Company delays announcement of the KEK international manager.*

Selection of the international management of KEK is being delayed because of the complaints from the companies that KTA has violated recruitment regulations, **Koha Ditore** reports.

The KTA considered rightful the complaints of a Canadian company, which was not among the short-listed candidates, said paper's reliable source. The paper further reports that such company was amongst ten best companies qualified to continue competition to gain control over the KEK's management.

The KTA violation of recruitment regulation triggered complaints of the Canadian Company, claims the same source. This complaint was taken into consideration, therefore the KTA decided to re-evaluate the entire list of offers. This process caused delay of the selection, **Koha Ditore** reports.

The Swedish company Swed Power also complained about not having been shortlisted. 'We haven't made an official complaint, but we are surprised that our presence was not estimated appropriately,' said Bengt Wegemo from the Swed Power Company.

The paper reports that the Irish Company ESB, the American Company TA Consulting and the consortium Innogy-RWE were short-listed.

The same source claims that the bidding winner was supposed to be appointed this month. The international management should begin its work in January 2004 and its prime tasks are regular power supply, increase of the commercial efficiency as well as preparation for the privatization.

### **KTA Legal Office head might have been involved in conflict of interest (Koha)**

*Koha Ditore* claims that Paul Csiszar, the head of the KTA Legal Office might be involved in conflict of interest, because the American company, for which Csiszar used to work before his arrival in Kosovo, has now been contracted by the KTA to defend him in the court of New York.

The American Company is chosen to defend the KTA in New York when its former lawyer in Budapest branch becomes the KTA legal office head.

This might have been a conflict of interest and is also in contradiction with the administrative regulations about involvement of the personnel in the privatization process.

The KTA public relations office acknowledged name and also address of the company after having received requests in writing. The KTA letter says that company that protects the KTA in the Court in New York is 'Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P' with address Cleveland, Ohio, US.

The point is that Paul Csiszar was working for that company before he became the head of the KTA legal office, *Koha Ditore* reports. The paper further added that Csiszar worked as a lawyer of this company in the Budapest branch until he became main KTA lawyer. As a lawyer, Csiszar, attended an international conference about 'Law on competition and communication' that was held in Budapest on May 19 and 20, 2003. There is clear evidence, which proves Csiszar's working place.

The Hungarian Csiszar has worked as the head of the KTA legal office since mid July 2003, paper reports. The American Company 'Wood Industries L.L.C' put forward the indictment against the KTA in New York state court several months later.

The paper concludes that indictment against the KTA was the prime reason to cease the privatization process.

### **Editorial: Holkeri facing Nikolaus and Lambsdorff (Kosova Sot)**

*Kosova Sot* runs a front-page commentary by the editorial office on the latest developments regarding the process of privatization.

After the demand of the Kosovo Government, all expectations are on chief administrator Harri Holkeri. He is now under tremendous pressure from two sides. On the one hand, there is UNMIK Pillar IV head Nikolaus and KTA director Marie, who due to mysterious reasons still want to keep hostage the process of privatization. And

on the other hand there is the weak government of Kosovo, which has no other choice except to protest in front of UN Headquarters.

It is going to be really difficult for the Special Representative of the Secretary General to decide, but he must certainly provide a speedy solution for this problem, otherwise he would be allowing a major crisis in Kosovo. To support Nikolaus and Marie implies to support a crisis, whereas to join the goodwill efforts of the government implies finding a way out of the crisis. It is clear that it's not easy to run an administration of bureaucrats, such as UNMIK. The difficulty to be successful in such a mission becomes even greater when associates show devilish goals in their work.

There are numerous convincing arguments that those, who are in charge of Kosovo's economy and the Kosovo Trust Agency, are very devilish in their actions and positions. Holkeri doesn't need much effort to draw this conclusion, but he finds it difficult to accept this as a bitter fact. However, mistakes must be admitted and those who make these mistakes must be dismissed if they refuse to correct their actions.

The conflict between the Government and UNMIK has now moved on to the UN mission itself. The chief administrator is in conflict with two officials who are under his supervision. Based on his statements and position on Kosovo, this is a logical conclusion. But the opposite can happen. Holkeri could come to terms with Nikolaus and Marie and privatization could go down the drain. This seems like a less-likely alternative, because the career of the Finn is a proof of correctness.

We can only wait and see what his actions are going to be in the next couple of days. Is he going to convince his employees to resume privatization and agree with the position to dismiss those who have blocked privatization? This is a big question. Now it's up to Harri Holkeri. Regardless of what he does, one thing is certain: privatization in Kosovo is far more important than Nikolaus and Marie.

### **Govt demands resignation of KTA Director Marie Fucci (*Koha Ditore/Zëri*)**

*Koha Ditore* and *Zëri* report that on Wednesday the Kosovo Government demanded the resignation of KTA Director Marie Fucci and of other KTA Legal Office employees. The government has also asked the Kosovo Assembly to declare null and void 53 discriminatory laws that were adopted during the Serbian regime.

Mimoza Kusari, spokeswoman for the Kosovo Government, was quoted as saying, 'The government has decided to demand the resignation of all the officials who are responsible for this situation. This includes the recently appointed director and all other officials from the KTA Legal Office that have made decisions which led to confusion and to the blocking of the process of privatization'.

'The blocking of privatization directly affects the operationalization of standards, because one of the working groups is involved in economy and property issues,' said Kusari. 'If the process is going to resume this will seriously damage the fulfillment of standards'.

On the other hand, Florin Pasnicu, spokesman for the Kosovo Trust Agency (KTA) told *Koha Ditore*, 'We are in the process of translating the request of the government

and I believe that it is going to be discussed after that. I don't believe that there is going to be an answer before next week when the KTA director is going to return. For the time being, she cannot comment because she still hasn't been informed about this'.

**Koha Ditore** however quoted its sources as saying that Fucci was informed about the latest developments because she left Prishtina in the afternoon.

### **Legal experts: UNMIK is violating its own regulations (Zëri)**

**Zëri** quotes Kosovo local experts as saying that all laws that were adopted by Serbia for Kosovo after 22 March 1989 are in contravention of the Regulations 1999/24 and 2003/13, and therefore they should be declared null and void.

Nekibe Kelmendi, member of the Kosovo Assembly Committee on Legislation, was quoted as saying, 'This administration should think with whom it would implement benchmarks in Kosovo. If UNMIK cannot respect its own regulations in Kosovo then it is completely illogical to ask Kosovan institutions to fulfill the needed standards'.

She recalled to UNMIK that it is impossible to apply none of the laws that were adopted after March 22, 1989 because of the discriminatory environment that those laws were adopted in. Kelmendi added that all laws adopted after that date [March 22, 1989] are in contradiction with Regulation 1999/24 and UNMIK regulation 2003/13 on privatization.

'All laws that Serbia had adopted in Kosovo after March 22, 1989 are discriminatory because Serbia had dissolved Kosovo's autonomy through use of force, imprisonment and also by keeping hostage members of the families of Kosovo's deputies,' she said.

She concluded that laws on property transformation that were adopted by Serbia after the suspension of Kosovo's autonomy are also amongst the discriminatory laws.

The head of the government legal office, Azem Hajdari, said that the Kosovo Government has decided to declare null and void all discriminatory laws. He added that the government's request was based on UNMIK's regulation 1999/24. He assessed that the decision to cease the privatization process by requiring the evaluation of laws that were adopted after March 22, 1989 is 'also in contradiction with UNMIK regulations and other legal documents that derive from the UNSC Resolution 1244, which mandated UNMIK to govern and also to prepare Kosovo for its final status'. He added that UNMIK is infringing the Constitutional Framework. He also thinks that Kosovo's assembly should declare null and void those laws with or without UNMIK's legal office approval.

'The assembly has its documents, its legitimacy doesn't derive at all from the UNMIK legal office, but from the Constitutional Framework, because most of the applicable laws in Kosovo are in the competency of the local institutions,' said Hajdari.

'I believe that the government will transfer proposals to the assembly on Monday, and we think that the assembly will put that issue on the agenda as soon as possible,' Hajdari concluded.

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# ► Headlines

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27 November

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- **President Rugova's message on 28 November Flag Day (*Koha Ditore*)**
- **Zogiani: Hartman's criticism is weak (*Koha Ditore*)**

## Kosovo Media Highlights

### Holkeri and Rexhepi to publish plan on operationalization of standards (*Koha*)

Quoting a senior UNMIK official, *Koha Ditore* reports that in the next couple of days Kosovo chief administrator Harri Holkeri and the Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi will publish the final version of the plan for the operationalization of standards.

*Koha Ditore* claims that another source confirmed this information, adding that it was likely that the operationalization plan would be published on December 1<sup>st</sup>. *Koha Ditore* also claims that the slogan standards before status has now been changed into Standards for Kosovo.

### Complete plan on operationalization of standards early next year? (*Zëri*)

*Zëri* quotes international sources in Prishtina as saying that the publication of the Plan for the Operationalization of Standards could be postponed again. 'The reasons for this delay are related to the lack of synchronization of eventual suggestions and remarks by the Contact Group and the UN Administration,' *Zëri* added.

### **Govt demands resignation of KTA Director Marie Fucci (*Koha Ditore/Zëri*)**

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### **Editorial: Holkeri facing Nikolaus and Lambsdorff (*Kosova Sot*)**

*Kosova Sot* runs a front-page commentary by the editorial office on the latest developments regarding the process of privatization. ‘After the demand of the Kosovo Government, all expectations are on chief administrator Harri Holkeri. On the one hand, there is UNMIK Pillar IV head Nikolaus and KTA director Marie, who still want to keep hostage the process of privatization. And on the other hand there is the weak government of Kosovo, which has no other choice except to protest in front of UN Headquarters,’ it was noted.

### **Shala: Pledge and blockage (*Zëri*)**

In a front-page editorial in *Zëri*, Blerim Shala claims that for the time being all the energy is being wasted in trying to determine who is guilty of blocking of the privatization in Kosovo. ‘The Kosovo Government is certain that UNMIK Pillar IV head Nikolaus Lambsdorff and KTA director Marie Fucci are guilty of this. Now the request of the government is clear: the resignation of Fucci and of the senior officials of the KTA. Fucci was appointed to this post although the Albanian representatives at KTA had three votes against her appointment. This fact should be sufficient for her not to be appointed to this position, if we had normal relations between UNMIK and the local government. Anyway the request of the government will find it difficult to come to life, if all Kosovar officials do not support it,’ Shala added.

### **Legal experts: UNMIK is violating its own regulations (*Zëri*)**

*Zëri* quotes Kosovo local experts as saying that all laws that were adopted by Serbia for Kosovo after 22 March 1989 are in contravention of the Regulations 1999/24 and 2003/13, and therefore they should be declared null and void.

Nekibe Kelmendi, member of the Kosovo Assembly Committee on Legislation, was quoted as saying, ‘If UNMIK cannot respect its own regulations in Kosovo then it is completely illogical to ask Kosovar institutions to fulfill the needed standards’.

### **KTA Legal Office head might have been involved in conflict of interest (*Koha*)**

*Koha Ditore* claims that Paul Csiszar, the head of the KTA Legal Office might be involved in conflict of interest, because the American company, for which Csiszar used to work before his arrival in Kosovo, has now been contracted by the KTA to protect it from an indictment in the court of New York. [*more in Media Analysis*]

### **Project of Steiner’s administration to restructure KTA (*Zëri*)**

*Zëri* claims to have gotten hold of a project that was compiled by the international administration (UNMIK) during the tenure of former SRSG Michael Steiner. *Zëri* claims that the project provides details and concrete timeframes on the gradual restructuring of the Kosovo Trust Agency.

### **Solana's advisors worried about the positions of Kosovo Government (Koha)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that immediately upon their arrival in Kosovo, Stefan Lehne and Alexandros Yannis met with UNMIK Pillar IV head Nikolaus Lambsdorff and KTA Director Marie Fucci. Citing its sources, the paper reports that Lehne and Yannis voiced their concern over the latest positions of the Kosovo Government, which has been demanding the resignation of Fucci and other KTA officials who were involved in the controversial decision on privatization.

The source also told *Koha Ditore* that Solana's top advisors said that what was now a clash on privatization tomorrow could be a clash on the transfer of competencies.

### **Third meeting of Tracking Mechanism of Stabilization and Association (dailies)**

*All dailies* report that the third meeting between the Kosovo Government and UNMIK and the representatives of the European Commission for the Tracking Mechanism of the Stabilization and Association Process was held yesterday in Prishtina. The meeting was chaired by SRSB Harri Holkeri.

According to *Koha Ditore*, European officials voiced their interest on issues such as budget, returns, crime, media, privatization, history books and the leveling of salaries.

### **Forum 2015: Standards turn into slogan of UNMIK and Govt (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that Forum 2015 yesterday organized a public debate on 'standards before status'.

'Kosovo has lost a year due to the absence of strategy policies. To say that Kosovo must fulfill standards, you must also be able to say who are the ones that will bear the burden of responsibility,' said publisher Veton Surroi. [*extensive coverage in afternoon Media Analysis*]

### **Cady: Agreement is valuable for all Kosovars (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that representatives from UNMIK and the International Committee for Missing Persons (ICMP) have signed a memorandum of understanding on missing persons in Kosovo.

'The Memorandum of Understanding is going to strengthen the procedures between our organizations regarding the identification process in order to bring more accurate information for the families of missing persons,' said ICMP Head Gordon Bacon.

UNMIK Pillar I head Jean Christian Cady was quoted as saying, 'Our common goal is to find the missing persons so that we can offer peace and tranquility to the families'.

On the other hand, Sheremet Ademi, chairman of the association of families of missing persons, was quoted as saying, 'This is too late and while we must listen and applaud initiatives of cooperation and signing of various memorandums, the corpses of our loved ones are in Serbia'.

### **Rama: Kosovo will decide on its own fate (Zëri)**

In an interview for *Zëri*, Bashkim Rama, head of the Albanian Liaison Office in Prishtina, was quoted as saying, ‘Kosovo will decide its own fate’.

### **President Rugova’s message on 28 November Flag Day (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* carries the message that Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova sends to all Kosovar citizens on 28<sup>th</sup> November – Flag Day. ‘God willing we will celebrate next 28<sup>th</sup> November with the formal recognition of Kosovo’s independence,’ said Rugova.

### **Zogiani: Hartman’s criticism is weak (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* carries an opinion piece by columnist Avni Zogiani, who comments on a report that the first international prosecutor in Kosovo, Michael Hartmann compiled on the work of courts in Kosovo, which was published by the US Institute for Peace.

‘Hartmann’s report on the work of Kosovar courts is problematic in what it fails to mention,’ claims Zogiani.

## **Kosovo Press Headlines**

### **Koha Ditore**

#### **Front page**

- **The government demands resignation of the KTA director Fucci**
- **KTA in New York is legally protected by company where Paul Csiszar worked**
- **Standards become the slogan of UNMIK’s and the Government**
- **Adili and Mustafaj announced to be ‘persona non grata’ in Albania**

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- **How did Steiner plan to restructure KTA?**
- **Shala: Pledge and blockage**

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- Feller: Killings of policemen is an act against law and institutions
- ICMP, last hope to find missing persons

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- Another crime that kills Kosovo
- Fucci should be dismissed from the KTA
- Doll: We should put more pressure in order to have results in Kosovo
- The number of Albanians in Macedonia will be published on Monday
- To enforce our determination for recognition of the Kosovo's independence

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- Buçpapaj: Success of privatization will determine weakness or strength of our state (4)
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- Baze: Cost and fate of the protests [Albania] (8)
- Baleta: Jorgo Papandreu wins elections in Himare [Albania] (9)
- Assault against KPS is an attack against Kosovo (10)
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### **Kosova Sot**

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- **As for KEK people freeze**
- **Minister Çeku; lack of budget is the biggest problem**
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- **Robertson in Belgrade (*Vecernje Novosti*)**
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- **Albanians from Serbia's south not to take part in elections (*Politika*)**
- **Kosovo government demands Maria Fucci's dismissal (*Danas/Beta*)**

### **Covic: It is known what I have done in the south (*Blic*)**

“DA shall run in parliamentary elections alone, but is ready to accept on its list all people with good reputation” said DA leader Nebojsa Covic. He did not want to say who his party was negotiating with about participation in the elections, but confirmed that negotiations with Rasim Ljajic's SDP had failed. According to his words, it will be difficult but not quite impossible for DA to reach census and enter the parliament. “I believe that the citizens know what I have done for the south of Serbia as the head of the CCK”, Covic said.

### **Robertson in Belgrade (*Vecernje Novosti*)**

NATO Secretary General George Robertson has arrived in Belgrade for a series of talks with top SaM officials, while one of the main topics is our country's joining the Partnership for Peace Program, as well as the situation in the region. Upon his arrival to the airport, Robertson said he was the first NATO secretary general to arrive in Serbia. Robertson headed from the airport to the Federation Palace where the first host and collocutor, SaM President Svetozar Marovic, welcomed him. After Marovic, meetings with Foreign Minister Goran Svilanovic, Defense Minister Boris Tadic, and Head of the CCK Nebojsa Covic are planned.

### **Cooperation regarding missing persons (*Glas/Beta*)**

The International Commission for Missing Persons (ICMP) and UNMIK signed in Pristina a memorandum defining tasks of those organizations in the identification of victims in Kosovo. The international commission assessed that some 40,000 persons in the region of the former Yugoslavia had been reported missing.

### **Albanians from Serbia's south not to take part in elections (*Politika*)**

The Movement for Democratic Progress and the Democratic Party of Albanians, operating in the municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo, almost for sure are not to take part in the upcoming parliamentary elections. There is a large possibility that they will be joined by the third, strongest political group of Albanians in Serbia's south – the Party for Democratic Action, which had been officially invited by SaM Minister for Human and Minority Rights Rasim Ljajic to enter the coalition of minority parties Together for Tolerance – Canak-Kasa-Ljajic. Asked to comment the ‘rumors’ that DA decided to join this political block, Ljajic answered: “I think this would be a good political move both for us and Covic, and I had discussed this with him on several occasions. I think he is welcome in every political coalition, he would give

significance, and our chances would, thus, drastically rise. I would very much like to see Covic in this coalition, said Ljajic.

**Kosovo government demands Maria Fucci's dismissal (*Danas/Beta*)**

The Kosovo government has demanded the dismissal of KTA Director Marie Fucci, assessing that she is responsible for the stopping of the privatization of socially owned and public companies in Kosovo. Apart from the dismissal of Indian Maria Fucci, the government asked the Kosovo Assembly to proclaim void 53 laws adopted by the Serbian authorities after 22 March 1989, considering them to be the main obstacle for continuing the privatization process, Kosovo government spokesperson Mimoza Kusari stated. Privatization in Kosovo was blocked on 6 October this year after KTA's decision, without consultations with the Kosovo government.