

UNMIK/PR/1077

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## **The Special Panel on the Law on the Census of the Population, Households and Housing in Kosovo issues a unanimous decision**

PRISTINA – Pursuant to section 9.1.39 of the Constitutional Framework, members of the Coalition Return submitted a motion challenging the Law on the Census of the Population, Households and Housing in Kosovo recently adopted by the Assembly on the grounds that its provisions violated the vital interests of the Kosovo-Serb Community. The Government as sponsors of the Law submitted a response. The special three-member Panel was then seized of the matter, pursuant to section 9.1.41 of the Constitutional Framework.

The Presiding Member of the Special Panel was Ms. Karin Völkner, Head of Office of the Council of Europe in Pristina. The other members were Mr. Nenad Trifunović, representative of Coalition Povratak, and Mr. Sylejman Morina, representative of the Government as sponsors of the Law. The Special Panel was convened on 4 and 5 December 2003. After full consideration of the arguments presented by Coalition Povratak and the Government, it unanimously reached a Decision to recommend that the Assembly adopt the Law with five amendments.

In its decision the Special Panel addressed the issues raised and recognized the need for making necessary operational arrangements ensuring equitable participation in the census of eligible members of all Kosovo communities, including internally displaced persons and refugees.