



"Kosovo Talks to EU" conference

The aim was to bring key figures of civil society, politics and academia



Agenda of progress

EU praises Kosovo's Ministry of Integrations



Kosovo Wants to be the Next Napa

Wine experts give good chances to Kosovo's drive to become a wine exporter

Kosovo's New Diplomat



We are supporters of the EU integration for all Balkan countries

IN AN INTERVIEW for Cord Magazine, Kosovo's foreign Minister Hoxhaj speaks about Kosovo's feelings towards Serbia's EU accession progress, Kosovo's strategy for north and the way forward in the dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo.

Cord Magazine: Mr. Minister, how do you assess the European Commission's decision to recommend that Serbia become an official candidate for membership of the European Union, after dangling the carrot of accession talks if it stops obstructing the independence of Kosovo?

Minister Hoxhaj: Republic of Kosovo is a staunch supporter of EU integration for all Balkan states. Progress of any individual country is a step forward for all remaining countries in their path to EU. We are hopeful Serbia will heed the advice of EU to normalize the relationship with Kosovo, so both countries can look towards future in a way that benefits our respective citizens and relax the tensions between the countries.

CM: The European Commission report also states that: "It is important that Kosovo launches a comprehensive agenda for

the north." This puts responsibility on the government in Prishtina for reintegrating the area. Are you ready to face all the risks?

EH: Kosovo has always been ready to talk. We wanted to talk and do a deal in Rambouillet in 1999, we also accepted recommendations of Kai Eide report in 2005; we were also fully engaged in Ahtisaari process and Vienna negotiations in 2006 and 2007. As a result, the constitutional package we have approved as a compromise pro-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

EVENTS

Leaders gathering in Prishtina for the ECFR conference

European Council of Foreign Affairs, one of the most renowned European foreign policy institutions, is organizing a conference in November in Kosovo to discuss the challenges for EU foreign policy in a multi-polar world

ECFR has cooperated with Kosovo's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to establish a new platform for the important European debate on the new challenges that EU is facing and the opportunities that may appear with the new roles of Russia and Turkey.

The conference's title is "SOUTH EAST EUROPE IN A MULTIPOLAR ERA" - INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF THE GERMIA HILL FORUM, which points out that the co-hosts intend for the event to become an annual gathering of leaders in academia, politics, media and civil society.

The conference will take place on 18th and 19th of November, with welcoming remarks being given Hashim Thaci, Prime Minister of Kosovo. Over 85 participants from around the world, including 7 European present and past foreign ministers will discuss issues such as "The fragmentation of Europe? Challenges for EU foreign policy in a multipolar setting". The initial framework is that the ongoing Euro crisis puts the vision of the EU as an influential re-



Inaugural session of the GERMIA Hill Conference will take place on November 18th and 19th, gathering over 80 top leaders from around the world.

gional and global actor under severe strain. What are the challenges facing the Union? Could European policymakers and publics use the crisis as a chance to reinvent the EU and its foreign policy?

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

Diplomatic Bits & Pieces

5 QUICK QUESTIONS

Our Top Priority is to Pave the Way to EU for Kosovo

France's top diplomat in Kosovo, **Ambassador Jean Francois Fitou** answers shortly what he most likes most about Kosovo, where he travels in the countryside and what is he reading these days

1 What is the best thing about living and working in Kosovo?

The thing I appreciate most is the openness of people, their availability and readiness to engage. It makes everything easier for diplomats and for those who leave in Kosovo.

You have the feeling that things are always close to hand and that people are ready to make your life easy by helping. I do also like the brisk and easy going way of life of the people of Kosovo, the feeling of it being a Mediterranean place where people are able to work while enjoying a coffee or a tea, this is a country, and a capital where you can meet a colleague in the same way you meet a friend, just by giving a ring and convening a meeting place in central Pristina.

2 How big is the French Embassy in Kosovo?

Small enough! All in all, expats and local staff together, we are no more than 20 people (and this is stretching things as far as I can). I like the fact that mine is a close knit unit and that everybody is part of everything we do. My favourite picture of us is a football team: we all run after the ball, all doing the same thing at the same time. It's a bit exhausting but the point is that it gives us the feeling that we are able to rely on each other. It creates a team spirit that is something worth sharing. Thanks God, we work closely with the team of Alliance Française, which adds extra womanpower and strength to the whole outfit.

3 How do you see franco-kosovan relations developing?

These relations have been close since the beginning of the story. They are based on principles: self-determination, freedom of nations and of individuals, development of human rights, secular society, respect for minorities and ways of life. France simply did what had to be done in 1999 and remained involved in

Jean Francois Fitou



Kosovo since then. Now, we have two big issues to deal with together: recognitions (a business that keeps many of my colleagues busy all around the world) and European integration, a slow and sometimes frustrating process. The way to EU has to be paved for Kosovo. It is, I guess, the top priority for European diplomats in Kosovo now.

4 What is your favourite part of Kosovo?

If I don't say Gjakova here, I will have to answer many an awkward question from my Kosovan friends. Honestly, I like Gjakova, and in general Dukagjini; as everybody else I also like Prizren very much (this is easier and consensual). To these cities, let me add Bajaska, near Zvecan, one of the most stunning places I know. Both the peaceful landscape and the elegant monastery standing on its solitary hilltop are worth the trip.

5 What is your current reading list?

I have just finished Paul Garde's *Vie et mort de la Yougoslavie*, one of the best books I know about the Balkans, especially when Kosovo is concerned.

I'm reading Julian Barnes' *Arthur and George* and every old day I buy myself one of Agatha Christie's crime novels at Dite Nat.

I have started the very long and intricate *Alexandre Dumas' Joseph Balsamo* last evening. Proust never left my bedside table since I first opened it decades ago.

SHORTNEWS

FROM THE EMBASSIES



NOV 01

"Kosovo Talks to EU" conference successfully finished

British Council Kosovo has organized a very special conference with key participants from EU countries that have not recognized Kosovo yet as an independent state. The aim of the conference was to bring key figures of civil society, politics and academia from Spain, Greece, Romania, Slovakia and Cyprus, as well as their counterparts in Kosovo. The conference was sponsored jointly by the FCO UK and Kosovo MFA and brought together key decision-makers from all strata of society in Kosovo. Interesting presentations from Spain, Greece and Slovakia as well as guest speakers such as President Jahjaga of Kosovo, Minister Hoxhaj, Dennis MacShane MP and former Europe Minister, Peter Feith, head of International Civilian Office and US Ambassador Chris Dell made a strong appeal to the activists to seek the best ways to upgrade relations.

The conference was sponsored jointly by the FCO UK and Kosovo MFA and brought together key decision-makers from all strata of society in Kosovo.

OCT 05 New Embassy building and new staff in Bruxelles

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Kosovo has just purchased its first building outside Kosovo for diplomatic purposes. The new building is situated in Bruxelles and will cover the increasing needs of the Kosovo Embassy in Belgium



that also covers relations to EU institutions and NATO. The Embassy in Belgium also houses the very first minority diplomat representing Kosovo abroad. MFA is happy to have named Srdjan Sentic who previously served as former Head of Communities Office at Prime Minister Thaci's cabinet – as the Minister Councilor at the Embassy.



NOV 09

Kosovo MFA signing an MoU with Soros Fund on capacity building

Kosovo Ministry of Foreign Affairs is concluding negotiations with the renowned Open Society Fund in Kosovo in order to establish a joint program for capacity building in diplomacy, public diplomacy and public relations for the need of Kosovo's external representation. The MoU will bring new resources from the donor community to the MFA and is the second such agreement signed, after the successful program implemented with FCO UK. MFA is seeking to expand its network of partnering organizations, institutions and foundations to enable more in-depth support for improving overall performance of the ministry. The project will commence in the end of 2011 and will also include elements of civil society and academia.

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Kosovo's NewDiplomat

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NEWKOSOVOREADS

EVERY ISSUE OF NEW DIPLOMAT WE WILL RECOMMEND TWO BOOKS, REPORTS OR WEBSITES WITH INTERESTING AND UPDATED CONTENT ON KOSOVO.

Title: Bradt Guide to Kosovo
Authors: Geil Warrander, Verena Knaus
Publisher: Bradt Travel Guide
Publication Date: Jan 25, 2011

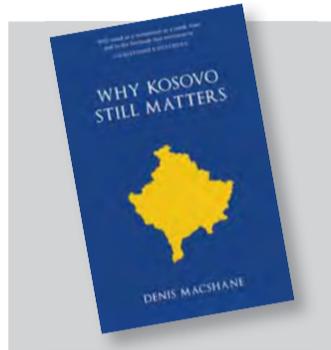
Kosovo is ringed by high mountains, ravaged by ethnic tensions, yet its renaissance is just a breath away. Rebuilding is all but complete, domestic tensions have eased and with the help of welcoming Kosovars, the country is emerging as one of the most exciting tourist destinations in southeastern Europe. Written by two Kosovo experts, who lived in the newly independent state for many years, Bradt's Kosovo explores gorges and mountains, mosques and kullas, and soaks up the café culture with a macchiato or a glass of fiery raki. From hip ur-

ban hotspots to remote monasteries, Kosovo offers up many delights to the adventurous traveller who steps off the beaten path. With revised and detailed descriptions of the growing number of restaurants, bars and shops, plus accommodation to suit all budgets, this second edition to a groundbreaking guide is a vital tool for tourists, NGOs and long-term visitors.

Sample Review: 'A book that educates and stimulates.' **Real Travel**



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Title: Why Kosovo still matters
Author: Dennis MacShane
Publisher: Haus Publishing
Publication Date: April 10, 2011

This polemical appeal by Denis MacShane calls for policy makers to re-engage with the Western Balkans before it is too late. MacShane has written a vivid and forceful account, showing that the Western Balkans are a symbol of Europe's weakness to transform one of its key regions and the choice we face is now stark: either the Balkans become European or Europe becomes Balkanized. Dennis MacShane has been the Member of the British Parliament for Rotherham since 1994. Between 2001-2005 he was Balkans Minister and later, from 2002 until 2005, Minister for Europe in Tony Blair's government.

He was also the United Kingdom's delegate to the Council of Europe between 2005 and 2010. Dr MacShane writes regularly for The Guardian and is an occasional contributor to European and North American magazines and newspapers.

Sample review: "The people of Kosovo—both the cleansed Albanians and the demagogically exploited Serbs—now know who their political and humanitarian friends were. One of the most outstanding European and parliamentary advocates has been Dr Denis MacShane. This will surprise none who know of his record on human rights. The book will stand as a monument to a harsh time and to the fortitude that overcame it." — **Christopher Hitchens**

RECOGN METER

LAST TWO MONTHS,
4 MORE COUNTRIES HAVE
RECOGNIZED KOSOVO
AND THE COUNT IS AT 85.



Every two months, Kosovo's New Diplomat will report the rate of recognitions of Kosovo's sovereign and independent status by UN member states, international institutions and sports and cultural organizations.

Last two months have continued to be active for Kosovo's foreign service with more recognitions confirmed across the globe.

This follows the wave of 6 recognitions, mostly from Africa, during the summer. Last two months, 4 more countries have recognized

Kosovo and the count is at 85. There have been no new developments in the membership in the regional, pan-European or international organizations as Kosovo awaits the results of the dialogue with Serbia on equal participation in the regional fora.

A VIEW FROM OUTSIDE

Is Kosovo Serbia?

A historian answers.

"Kosovo is Serbia", "Ask any historian" read the unlikely placards, waved by angry Serb demonstrators in Brussels on Sunday. This is rather flattering for historians: we don't often get asked to adjudicate. It does not, however, follow that any historian would agree, not least because historians do not use this sort of eternal present tense.

History, for the Serbs, started in the early 7th century, when they settled in the Balkans. Their power base was outside Kosovo, which they fully conquered in the early 13th, so the claim that Kosovo was the "cradle" of the Serbs is untrue.

What is true is that they ruled Kosovo for about 250 years, until the final Ottoman takeover in the mid-15th century. Churches and monasteries remain from that period, but there is no more continuity between the medieval Serbian state and today's Serbia than there is between the Byzantine Empire and Greece.

Kosovo remained Ottoman territory until it was conquered by Serbian forces in 1912. Serbs would say "liberated"; but even their own estimates put the Orthodox Serb population at less than 25%. The majority population was Albanian, and did not welcome Serb rule, so "conquered" seems the right word.

But legally, Kosovo was not incorporated into the Serbian

kingdom in 1912; it remained occupied territory until some time after 1918. Then, finally, it was incorporated, not into a Serbian state, but into a Yugoslav one. And with one big interruption (the second world war) it remained part of some sort of Yugoslav state until June 2006.

Until the destruction of the old federal Yugoslavia by Milosevic, Kosovo had a dual status. It was called a part of Serbia; but it was also called a unit

of the federation. In all practical ways, the latter sense prevailed: Kosovo had its own parliament and government, and was directly represented at the federal level, alongside Serbia. It was, in fact, one of the eight units of the federal system.

Almost all the other units have now become independent states. Historically, the independence of Kosovo just completed that process. Therefore, Kosovo has become an ex-Yugoslav state, as any historian could tell you.

©The Guardian. The author is a senior research fellow at All Souls College, Oxford. He is the author of Kosovo: A Short History.



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About Us

À PROPOS COLUMN

Why publish Kosovo's New Diplomat?

Why publish a printed newsletter at a time when MFA's around the world are hastily shifting their communication to Twitter and Facebook while Ambassadors are being encouraged to start blogging or even vlogging?

Well, the best answer we could give is a deliberate play with a quote from CS Lewis: "We read to know we are not alone". Our version of the famous citation would be "We write to know we are not alone". We decided to start writing regularly to you to document that Kosovo is, indeed not alone.

Our young republic has entered into a myriad of multilateral and bilateral agreements and mutual obligations with states and regional or international initiatives. The society and the state are in the midst of the several transitional processes but important progress has been achieved in reinforcing the statehood and the position in the community of nations. In the three years after the Declaration of Independence, 85 countries have recognized Kosovo, while another 50 countries interact with Kosovo in one way or the other, such as voting for Kosovo's membership in financial and sport organizations, stamping visas on Kosovo passports or direct communication through Chambers of Commerce. The remarkable success was achieved with the help of friends around the world and we hope that Kosovo's New Diplomat will become a handy companion where you can read some of the key stories from the diplomatic circuit in and about Kosovo.

We will cover the key events and news from the Office of the President Atifete Jahjaga, the Office of Prime Minister Hashim Thaci, the cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Envoy on recognitions Begjet Pacolli, cabinet of Minister of Foreign Affairs Enver Hoxhaj, Minister of European Integration Vlora Citaku as well as other actors such as the Parliament, civil society and media.

Kosovo's New Diplomat is a project initiated within the umbrella of KKS_talks_EU initiative

implemented by the British Council in Kosovo, and initiated jointly by the British Embassy in Kosovo and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Kosovo. This project seeks to establish new and innovative platforms of communication to advance Kosovo's EU integration agenda and upgrade Kosovo's communication with all EU members and their publics.

So far, British Council has helped us publish special supplements in dedicated magazines with focused target audiences; organized conferences and exchanges with participants from the 5 EU non-recognizing countries and has provided the MFA with advisors and support on protocol, communications, cultural and public diplomacy. One of the main components of this project



PETRIT SELIMI

Kosovo MFA

is the major foreign policy forum organized by European Council of Foreign Affairs on the roles Turkey, respectively Russia, play in Balkans which is engulfed in EU integration process. Major academics, ministers, other policy and opinion makers from around the world will come to Kosovo on 18 and 19 of November to discuss these important developments of the past few years. Hence, I thank UK Ambassador Ian Cliff and director of British Council Kosovo Arjeta Emra and the staff of both institutions for excellent cooperation that is helping Kosovo reinforce and document its' dedication to dialogue, stability and progress.

Every issue of this bimonthly publication will have few regular features such as the interview, the news from Kosovo's embassies abroad, columns, contributions from foreign diplomats serving in Prishtina as well as bits and pieces from Kosovo's economy, culture and history.

Author is the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

NEW DIPLOMATS



LULZIM PEÇI / AMBASSADOR, SWEDEN

What do you do, where are you based? I am the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Sweden and Norway. I am based in Stockholm.

What is the most you like about the job you do? Interaction with policy makers in the host countries, advancing bilateral relations, and early identification of policy options for Kosovo and the region.

What is the best thing about the city you live? The fact that it Stockholm is literally in water, makes it a unique and very charming city of the Northern Europe. What impresses me is a combination of water, architecture and large green areas of Stockholm that reflect the peaceful spirit of Swedish people.



HEROINA TELAKU / CHIEF OF STAFF, KOSOVO

What do you do, where are you based? I am the Chief of Staff of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo. I am based in Prishtina, at the MFA.

What is the most you like about the job you do? I love the diversity that this job offers as well as its dynamism. It is also very demanding and stimulating. I meet new people

from all over the world, which is the best part of it.

What is the best thing about the city you live? Prishtina is a city with a lot of young people, therefore it is a very lively city. On the other hand Prishtina is a very dense city, however there is still this creative chaos which is not always easy but provides a lot of opportunities.



LABINOT HOXHA / FIRST SECRETARY, BELGIUM

What do you do, where are you based? I am seconded by the Ministry of European Integration to the post of First Secretary at the Kosovo Embassy in Brussels where I act as a liaison with the European Commission covering a wide range of EU integration issues.

What is the most you like about the job you do? I like the practical and concrete aspects of my job; and our relationship with

the EU is one of real and tangible benefits. I especially enjoy being involved in priority areas, such as visa-free travel, improved trade relations, financial assistance etc.

What is the best thing about the city you live in? Brussels is a very diverse and dynamic city, especially for its size, which brings with it a rich cultural and social scene with restaurants and cafes never more than a stone's throw away.



ARTA RAMA / CONSUL GENERAL (RKS), NY

What do you do, where are you based? I am appointed Consul General in New York, US since 2009, and my primary responsibility is to build strong ties between our two countries, promote our country's interests in the US and work with our citizens living here to preserve their identity and culture and integrate better in the new environment. Until Kosovo becomes a full-fledged member of the United Nations, I also cover the representation of Kosovo in the diplomatic community in New York.

What is the most you like about the job you do? I enjoy the dual role that my job has given me, that of possibility to introduce my beautiful country to US citizens and institutions and at the same time the opportunity to work with

UN Permanent Missions in New York that enables me to experience a different perspective of the diplomatic profession.

What is the best thing about the city you live in? Say New York City and that's sufficient to describe the excitement of one the greatest places in planet. It's a city that brings together all cultures and nationalities of the world in such harmony and peace that despite millions walking in the streets, you still feel as the most necessary part of that dynamic. Moreover, New York has one of the largest Albanian community abroad and it's a great feeling to meet fellow citizens while walking, in restaurants, banks, and everywhere. And last but not least: Shopping, of course for that NY is number one.



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FEATURE *of the* MONTH

Kosovo's wine country, Rahovec, doesn't have much name recognition outside of the region, though it's been making wine for some 2,000 years.

Kosovo as a wine tourism destination?

Several world media have featured stories on Kosovo's famous winemaking tradition in recent months. We republish a story from NPR.



Rahovec vineyards in Central Kosovo. (kosovoguide.com)

Kosovo Wants to be the Next Napa

Wine experts give good chances to Kosovo's drive to become a wine exporter

Behajdin Durguti goes vine to vine, as he's done for the past 30 years, clipping clusters of Riesling grapes and tossing them into a bucket. Customers have come from neighboring Albania, where they use his grapes to make white wine and a potent brandy called Rakia.

Durguti has to turn customers away; a devastating winter here destroyed much of his crop.

It's little solace for grape growers like Durguti, but there's been a surge in demand for Kosovo grapes. That's a positive sign for a once-thriving wine industry that's trying to make a comeback.

Kosovo's wine country, Rahovec, doesn't have much name recognition outside of the region, though it's been making wine for some 2,000 years.

Cheap table wine once flowed from Kosovo to the rest of Communist Yugoslavia and other parts of Europe. But the wine in-

dustry here collapsed as Yugoslavia fell apart and Kosovo plunged into war in the 1990s. After the war, vintners basically had to start over.

Now, as quality and capacity improve, more people are getting a chance to try what Rahovec has to offer.

According to Miro Brkic, it's the perfect place to make wine. A retired economist-turned vintner, Brkic said Rahovec, with its 270 days a year of sunshine, is well situated. Go south to Macedonia, and the grapes have too much sugar. To the north in Serbia, they're too acidic. In Rahovec, he said, they're just right.

In the cellar of Kosovo's largest winery, Stone Castle, the air is thick with the scent of oak and wine. Some 5 million liters of wine, including pinot noir, merlot and chardonnay, age in massive barrels.

Shani Mullabazi, Stone Castle's general manager, sips a glass of the 2010 chardonnay.

"It's a fresh wine. Has a really optimal acidity. It's crispy, very good in the mouth," Mullabazi said.

Americans got a chance to sample some Stone Castle wines this summer. The winery sent a small shipment to New York City, where there's a large community of Kosovar Albanians.

"We have a very good Diaspora in the US," Mullabazi said. "They have very good friends, American friends, and they're drinking our wine together."

The wines aren't pricey; they top out at about \$12 a bottle. The winery sends even cheaper table wines to Germany. But it would like to break into the lucrative American market as a destination for its higher-end productions, including pinot noirs and cabernets.

That's a lofty goal for a country virtually unknown on the global wine scene. But another Rahovec winemaker, Visar Hajrullaga, said Kosovo is undergoing a wine revolution. Hajrullaga's winery looks like a mom-and-pop operation; no stainless steel tanks or oak barrels. The finished product goes into two-liter plastic bottles. But Hajrullaga is doing something different here, with his vranac grapes, native to the Balkans.

"This grape juice will give wines with 14," he said, meaning 14 percent alcohol. That's unusual for Kosovar reds, which generally don't exceed 11 percent.

Hajrullaga has been studying up on the latest winemaking techniques with the help of the German government. He said once winemakers here get up to speed, they'll be a force to be reckoned with.

"Kosovo has a big potential for the wine industry," he said.

That potential is something Warren Richard, a high school teacher who blogs for the website Virginia Wine Time, tasted when he sampled Kosovar wine for this first time this summer. He said Kosovo should aim to make itself known for a particular kind of wine — like California for Chardonnay and Italy for Chianti.

"I think the wines from Kosovo could have a place in the supermarket or the wine shop," Richard said. "The biggest challenge is going to be recognition."

Hajrullaga, the winemaker, expects that recognition to come with vranac. His vranac will soon appear on Kosovo supermarket shelves in proper wine bottles with sleek labels. It's the first step, Hajrullaga said, to giving his wine a global stage.

PUBLIC RADIO INTERNATIONAL

International affairs



Ministry of European Integrations led by Minister Vlora Citaku **has received special praise from the European Union** for their efforts in implementing standards and requirements identified in Kosovo's progress report. Following the publication of report last month of Kosovo's progress to EU, we asked the Ministry what will be the priorities for the next year.

Agenda for progress

Recognizing the challenges of the Progress Report 2011, institutions will focus on several objectives and with this case allow me to highlight some of these priorities that Kosovo Government has already identified as targets for the coming months:

Government and Assembly of Kosovo

Government and Assembly of Kosovo will harmonize the legislative strategy for next year

The constitution shall be amendment for ensuring direct selection of the president, as well as the amendment of the law for elections will be finalized.

The Government, more exactly the MLGA will develop its capacities to have a much better monitoring of the work of the municipalities, always in accordance with the Principals of European card for local self-government. Furthermore, we will ensure full enforcement of the law for local self-government.

The Government will provide the necessary legislation in accordance with the EU legislation. While the Ministry of Integration will increase European integration agenda at a higher level and will provide nationwide consensus on this agenda

Public Administration

We will proceed with the public administration reform in which case we will draw and approve the necessary legislative and strategic framework.

We will also make sure that the decisions of the Ministerial Council for public administration reform will be implemented for this purpose we will create a mechanism to monitor the implementation of decisions of the inter-ministerial commission.

Judiciary

As for the judicial system, for upcoming months we will finalize the legal and strategic framework in which case we will amend the Penal Code and the code of Criminal Procedure, the law for Forensics Agency.

We will proceed with full restructuring of courts and finalization of selection process for judges of the Appeal Court and College of Special Room of the Supreme Court and Economic Court.

We will approve the regulations for basic courts, courts for Appeal and Supreme Court.

Anticorruption

Kosovo Government will continue the support for the law enforcing institutions in fighting corruptive activities, as well as will reinforce its mechanisms for ensuring the implementation of anti-corruption legislation.

We will ensure the transparency of wealth of the high public officials and establish supporting mechanisms for investigations, indictment and conviction of cases involved in corruptive activities.

We will continuously enforce the Directorate of Economic Crimes of Kosovo Police and

will ensure that the Law for financing of political parties to be compatible with EU standards.

Rule of Law (Visa Liberalization)

We will ensure the accomplishments of the criteria for visa liberalization, where we will take action for:

- completing the legal and strategic framework for document security
- prevention of illegal migration,
- advancing the accomplishment of the strategy for reintegration of repatriated persons in central as well as local levels,
- ensure progress in addressing of asylum requests,
- functionalizing the Kosovo Police, community Policing and the police based on intelligence information,
- fighting the crime and different trafficking, respectively in accomplishment of strategic criteria's for fighting these negative phenomena.

Our focus shall be the raise of capacities for investigations development, criminal pursuance and sentencing with special emphasize for local prosecutors who deal with fighting organized crime, corruption and trafficking of human beings.

Nevertheless, during upcoming months, the agency for management of confiscated assets will be implemented.

Human Rights and protection of the minorities

Government will ensure the institutional mechanisms that deal with human rights and protection of the minorities to

Kosovo Government will continue the support for the law enforcing institutions in fighting corruptive activities, as well as will reinforce its mechanisms for ensuring the implementation of anti-corruption legislation.

be reformed in order to reach the effectiveness and inter-institutional coordination.

We will approve the necessary legislation for the RTK and the Independent Media Council.

During the coming months, we will pay special care about work conditions of the ombudsman in which case we will ensure full independence, resource and necessary space for better work.

Functionality of the National Coordinator for property rights, provision of necessary tools and addressing and resolving all complaints disposed by the EC will be the focus of our country.

Economic Criteria

Economic development shall be in the center of attention of all local relevant institutions. In particular we will ensure the implementation of the Action Plan for Economic Development 2011-14 and the observance of the Agreement with the IMF through the maintenance of long-term budget policy, improving billing and collection of bills for public services as well as attracting investors. At the same time will fight tax evasion and informal economy by implementing the action plan 2010-2012 and implementation of the strategy of Kosovo Tax Administration. Intensification of the process of privatization and liquidation of socially owned enterprises will provide incentives for institutional support of activities in the field of economic development.



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Minister Hoxhaj: We are supporters of the EU integration for all Balkan countries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

posed by UN Envoy Ahtisaari, provides extensive and unprecedented rights to Serbian minority, including self-governance in education, health care, local organization, links with Serbia, financing from Serbia, etc. Most of the Serbs in southern enclaves are now benefiting and participating in elections and the system. Problem is in north where the criminal elements have prevented the progress by threatening and sometimes even killing members of community who want to cooperate with Prishtina.

CM: After all the recent developments, how would you describe the security situation in northern Kosovo?

EH: Situation is sometimes tense at the barricades put up by parallel structures, but overall it's peaceful and we have clarity of purpose and action with the entire international presence. We hope for dialogue with Serbia to produce type of results that will be fully implemented in all of Kosovo.

CM: A KFOR Commander recently said that he would like the barricades to be removed as a result of a political process, not by force. Can this be achieved?

EH: We want political solutions as well, though at one point freedom of movement for people and goods will have to be guaranteed. I believe KFOR, EULEX and Kosovo government are dedicated to find the most appropriate response to the barricades that would minimize the political risk. But we will be firm in protecting borders of Republic of Kosovo from any idea of ethnic division.

CM: Analysts say much will depend on whether NATO tries to remove the Serb barricades by force, and Kosovo takes further steps to rein in the north, where confrontation can quickly escalate. Will Kosovo authorities be part of the future actions in the north or it has been totally left in the hands of KFOR and EULEX?

EH: Kosovo is a host to a robust mission of rule and law from EU and NATO presence. We are always coordinating our moves with them in securing and providing equal opportunities for all citizens of Kosovo.

Escalation will not happen as the only ones keen on it are the criminals and smuggling gangs and members of parallel institutions keen on status-quo.

CM: Some say that not all "parallel structures" in the north – the public institutions financed by Serbia – would have to be dismantled. What do you say?

EH: Ahtisaari plan provides a very wide range of tools and instruments for people's autonomous decision-making in municipalities. They are clearly defined and this is our offer to all citizens. Anything beyond that, would be unacceptable for us and would consist a direct breach of UN resolution 1244, which clearly says that ALL Serbian authority or presence in Kosovo is banned.

CM: In order to keep territorial integrity, the Prishtina Government has to win the hearts and minds of the Kosovo Serbs. How do you plan to do it?

EH: We have to increase interaction and also to assist international community in launching the process of electing legitimate leaders on north who would take the ownership of the process of integration within existing constitutional arrangements. Where there is a will, there is a way – and Kosovo government is very interested to assure all its citizens of the dedication to EU path.

CM: Is there any official contact between Prishtina authorities and north Kosovo Serbs?

EH: Yes - off course we keep the contact. These are our citizens. Unfortunately gangs have attacked in multiple occasions any Serbs who dare meet us or even participate in our political life as was case of Kosovo MP Miletic, shot last year or Bosniak from north and head of election commission Shefko Salkovic, brutally murdered in front of his own house, also last year. We don't want to convince northern Serbs that they have to love Republic of Kosovo, we just want to ensure the plurality of opinion so those who may want to enjoy benefits of working with Kosovo government can do so, without fearing for their life.

CM: The Kosovo Prime Minister cites organized crime as the chief problem plaguing the Serb-dominated north, and



Hoxhaj at Security Council (UN Press)

vows to counter it and parallel criminal structures operating there. What is being done about organized crime and corruption in other parts of Kosovo?

EH: Progress report received from EU says there was a certain progress in the fight against organized crime and corruption. Several high-level investigations are taking place against several former members of government. We are dedicated to use all means to establish a society where all will have opportunities, and not allow for the minority to misuse the system. This will not happen.

CM: Belgrade-Prishtina dialogue has hit a stumbling block over the recent unrest in northern Kosovo. Both sides are promising to be a constructive part of talks once they resume. How fast can this happen?

EH: We went twice to Bruxelles to wait for the Belgrade delegation who never showed up so actually Kosovo government is waiting for Belgrade to be ready to resume talks. They are conditioning EU with the issue of opening talks on northern borders, but as this is an internal issue on Kosovo and not a subject of dialogue as foreseen by UN General Assembly. EU and especially German Chancellor Merkel were rather clear on the issue of what needs to be done by Serbia and we are all waiting for the Government there to be ready to resume the

dialogue.

CM: Some in Prishtina hope that dialogue with Belgrade regulating technical issues could open the way for a peace treaty. Do you share that optimism?

EH: Inevitably Kosovo and Serbia will be equal members of international community. Sooner is this realized in Belgrade, better for all of Balkans.

CM: Next year Kosovo and Serbia will enter an election year and the danger is that no politician will talk about recon-

ciliation, but mainly patriotism and nationalism to gain votes. Do you agree?

EH: Government of Kosovo was dedicated to dialogue and peace regardless of internal political dynamic. We hope for parties in Serbia not to engage in nationalist and inflammatory discourse.

Excerpts from an interview with the Minister published in the November issue of Cord Magazine, the English language publication in Belgrade

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On the other hand, How does the growing prominence of powers such as Turkey, Russia and China affect South East Europe? Is the EU still the only game in town for the region? How can EU member states and institutions engage and cooperate with the newly rising powers in the interest of regional stability and economic growth?

These are important questions, and Kosovo is happy to be a host to a distinguished group of people that will seek answers of relevance for the Kosovo's path to EU as well. Among others, guests that have confirmed their participation include: Ahmet Davutoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Turkey, Edmond Haxhinasto, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Albania, Gordon Bajnai, Former Prime Minister of Hungary, Nickolay Mladenov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria, Samuel Zbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia, Bernard Kouchner, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, France and High Representative in Kosovo, etc. Tim Judah, Daniel Korski, Erhan Turbedar, Sir Geoffrey Nice, Nadia Arbatova are among the analysts that will also lead the panels on the second day of the conference.

The conference is organized by ECFR, with the support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of United Kingdom and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Kosovo.

The Biennial Goes Graphic

Opening:
21 November 2011
The Kosova Art Gallery
19:00h

Curated by Rene Block

Marina Abramović / Dennis Adams / Nevin Aladağ / Halil Altindere / Maja Bajević / Joseph Beuys / Barbara Bloom / Luchezar Boyadjiev / KP Brehmer / John Cage / Tony Cragg / Danica Dakić / Braco Dimitrijević / Ayşe Erkmen / Jakup Ferri / Robert Filliou / Rosalie Gascoigne / Richard Hamilton / Edi Hila / Mona Hatoum / Rebecca Horn / IRWIN / Sanja Iveković / Alfredo Jaar / Ilya Kabakov / Šejla Kamerić / Allan Kaprow / Gülsün Karamustafa / Per Kirkeby / Vlado Martek / Komar & Melamid / Olaf Metzel / Aydan Murtezaoglu / Oliver Musovik / Bjørn Nørgaard / Nam June Paik / Dan Perjovschi / Marjetica Potrč / Anri Sala / Bülent Şangar Sarkis / Julian Schnabel / Nedko Solakov / Mladen Stilinić / André Thomkins / Raša Todosijević / Jelena Tomašević / Milica Tomić / Jalal Toufic / Rosemarie Trockel / Peter Tyndall / Ken Unsworth / Ben Vautier / Lawrence Weiner / Richard Wentworth / Emmett Williams / Maaria Wirkkala /