



DSEE_PV(2019)0129

MINUTES

of the meeting of 6 September 2018, 14.00-15.30
Brussels

The meeting opened at 14.00 on Thursday, 6 September 2018, with Tonino PICULA (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

When adopting the draft Agenda, D-SEE Chair Mr PICULA expressed his regrets that due to unavailability of a representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina the agenda point on Bosnia and Herzegovina had to be cancelled last minute. At the same time, he was hopeful that a new meeting could be organised following elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the 8th of October 2018.

2. Exchange of views with H.E. Mr Bernard NIKAJ, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to the Kingdom of Belgium, Mr David CULLEN, Head of Unit, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo, DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission and with Mr Clive RUMBOLD, Deputy Head of Division 'Western Balkans' in the European External Action Service on the political and economic situation in Kosovo and on its relations with the EU

In his opening remarks, D-SEE Chair Mr Picula praised Kosovo's efforts deployed with a view of fulfilling the required benchmarks for the Commission's recommendation to abolish short-term visas for citizens of Kosovo emphasizing Parliament's role and support for the process. Moreover, he called on the Council to follow the Commission's recommendation, stressing that visa-free regime presented one of the most tangible and concrete of the European project.

With regard to Dialogue, Mr Picula reminded that its final objective was to conclude a legally binding agreement on comprehensive normalisation between Kosovo and Serbia in line with EU acquis and international law. As for the much floated idea of the swap of territories, he said that the Parliament would only support a long-lasting solution agreed within the framework of the Dialogue and that would not jeopardize security and stability in the region.

Finally, he expressed hope that this exchange of views would help the delegation better prepare us for the 5th SAPC meeting in Pristina on 17-18 September.

Ambassador Mr Bernard NIKAJ presented Kosovo's efforts to fulfil the last outstanding criteria concluding the border demarcation agreement with Montenegro and strengthening track-record in fighting organised crime in view of visa liberalisation. He welcomed the LIBE's overwhelming support of the Commission positive opinion on the issue. He expressed anxiety to terminate the process as soon as possible. With regard to migration and the possible misuse of visa liberalisation, the Ambassador stressed that Kosovo was no longer among the top 30 countries of origin of asylum seekers in the EU and gave recent statistics with regard to the country's efforts deployed on the migration and security/fight against terrorism front.

Kosovo's Ambassador also gave a very detailed overview of the measures Kosovo has taken to tackle organised crime emphasizing Kosovo's commitment to continue to implement further requirements. He also mentioned the Government's new information campaign targeting citizens on benefits of visa liberalisation. With regard to the Dialogue Kosovo Ambassador ensured participants of the country's efforts to continue to work towards a mutually acceptable agreement, including an Association of Serb-majority municipalities of which a draft proposal was due to be presented next month, he said. He also added that the Serbian side was lagging behind in implementing of the energy agreement. With regard to economic development the Ambassador stressed the 4% annual growth in 2017, pointed to the country's digital connectivity (with 77% internet coverage), and also spoke about the brain-drain the country was experiencing.

After shortly reviewing the Commission's 2018 agenda with regard to the Western Balkans Mr David CULLEN from DG NEAR, referred to the Commission 2018 Kosovo report, which, in his view, showed a mixed picture. Mr CULLEN praised Kosovo's achievements concluding the border demarcation agreement with Montenegro and strengthening track-record in fighting organised crime. He also pointed to the remaining challenges, including insufficient and legislative activity, the quality of which left room for improvement especially with regard to financial and sustainability impact assessment. He said the Commission was looking forward to the adoption of a series of law within the field of rule of law. He called particularly important the independence and professionalism of the judiciary, including the Public Prosecution and the public administration reform. He singled out the law on salaries, as an example where financial sustainability should be looked at. Mr Cullen said that overall implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and that of the European Reform Agenda was progressing, but not as fast as the Commission would have hoped for. Mr Clived stressed that further commitment of Kosovo authorities was expected in the areas of judiciary, education, environment, public administration reform, public financial management, where IPA was there to support Kosovo.

Mr Clive RUMBOLD from EEAS started with a few words on the regional context, mentioning a number of milestones in the EU-Western Balkans relations, including high-level visits, the Western Balkans strategy, the Sofia Summit, and the June Council conclusions. He stressed that Kosovo had the same opportunities as the rest of the region with regard to the European perspective. He praised Kosovo's achievements concluding the border demarcation agreement with Montenegro and strengthening track-record in fighting organised crime. He expressed hope that the EU would also deliver on its promises. Mr RUMBOLD called on Kosovo to make continuous efforts in the field of rule of law, migration and on security. He agreed with the previous speaker in saying that the Commission 2018 report on Kosovo showed mixed results and reminded that Kosovo needed to step up its efforts in implementing

its Stabilisation and Association Agreement and the European Reform Agenda. He said that Kosovo was expected to stand by its commitments in the field of rule of law, the fight against corruption and organised crime and the support of Specialist Chambers. As for the Dialogue, he said that parties should aim at achieving a legally binding agreement on comprehensive normalization of relations in line with EU acquis/values and international law, based on mutual consent and respecting the multi-ethnic character of both Serbia and Kosovo without setting a precedent elsewhere in the world.

Julie WARD (S&D, UK) expressed satisfaction that visa liberalisation was making progress during her mandate. She raised the issue of environment protection, where things could be done on the local level, mentioning her recent visit to Genica, Kosovo where the mayor was undertaking some public action in that regard. She urged to find ways to encourage these actions, possibly including connecting Kosovar regions with European ones. In addition, she also raised the contentious issues of financial payment to women victims of sexual abuse during the war and that of the abduction and illegal deportation to Turkey of six Turkish nationals at/from Pristina airport over Good Friday week-end. With regard to this latter, she stressed that it was a great concern that it could happen in democratic country.

D-SEE Chair Mr Tonino Picula (S&D, HR) enquired about how Kosovo government was coping with the informal economy, what proportion of the GDP it represented and how the privatisation of state-owned companies was going on. With regard to migration Mr PICULA was wondering how much brain-drain was impacting Kosovo. In addition, he was asking whether the polarisation of political landscape in Kosovo might block the current progress.

With regard to victims of sexual abuse Ambassador NIKAJ replied that the Government for the first time set aside a special budget for that effect and the process was in progress with an intergovernmental working group dedicated it. As for the environmental issue, he briefed participants of the recent establishment of another inter-governmental working group called "Let's clean Kosovo", which in the next four months would work with all the municipalities and all the mayors in order to undertake actions to clean Kosovo as much as it is possible. Furthermore, Kosovo's Ambassador reassured MEPs that the abduction of Turkish nationals was not linked to any political intervention, stating that following the incident Prime Minister HARADINAJ made his Minister of Interior and Head of Intelligence resign. He also added that Kosovo authorities undertook the most serious measures to resolve this incident, including the establishment of an ad-hoc parliamentary committee to investigate the case.

With regard to questions asked by Mr Picula, he stressed that brain-drain did affect Kosovo, especially in the health-sector. With regard to informal economy, he confirmed that 30% of Kosovo economy was informal, and referred to measures taken to address it over the years, including steps to counter tax evasion and smuggling. As for state-owned enterprises, he said that it was difficult to distinguish between the process of state-building and economic development. He presented three streams of actions: first, make sure that state-owned enterprises with a potential did realise their potential, second was the creation of jobs especially in the agricultural sector, and third was developing the digital economy. With regard to the political landscape, he stressed that the ability of Kosovo parties to come to a consensus on the border demarcation agreement with Montenegro showed that once there was an important political stake, a consensus was possible.

3. Consideration of the draft agenda and the draft programme for the 5th meeting of the EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee on 17-18 September 2018 in Pristina

The meeting continued with presentation of the draft programme and draft Agenda by D-SEE Chair. The draft Agenda was adopted as presented. First speakers were still missing on a few Agenda points, but Mr PICULA expressed hope that all agenda points would be covered by EP speakers during the SAPC. Mr PICULA told participants that he was expecting the Kosovar Chairperson to react to the EP's proposed draft recommendations by the beginning of next week the latest.

4. Any other business

None.

5. Date and place of the next SAPC meeting

The Chairman informed participants that the 5th meeting of the EU-Kosovo Stabilisation Association Parliamentary Committee would take place on 17 and 18 September 2018, in Pristina, Kosovo.

The meeting closed at 15.06.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/
JELENĹTI ÍV/REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
LISTÁ DE PREZENŤA/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÁSNÁOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjetništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedníctvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Tonino Picula (C)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Képviselek/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Julie Ward
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Pótagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter

200 (2)	
206 (3)	
53 (8) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/ Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Τοčka dnevnoĝ reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Τοčka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)	
Bernard Nikaj, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to the Kingdom of Belgium, David Cullen, Head of Unit, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo, DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission, Clive Rumbold, Deputy Head of Division 'Western Balkans' in the European External Action Service.	2

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opozovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Εσίμεηε κησέλ/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l'invitation du président/Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tač'-Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
Bernard Nikaj, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to the Kingdom of Belgium, David Cullen, Head of Unit, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo, DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission and with Clive Rumbold, Deputy Head of Division 'Western Balkans' in the European External Action Service

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)	
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)	
David Cullen, Julia Mueller-Hellmann.	
Европейска служба за външна дейност/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välissteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Euroopska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Kültügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Služba Działañ Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)	
Clive Rumbold, Bianca Maier	
Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Druge institucije/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ	
Valeza Oruçi	Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo to the Kingdom of Belgium

Други учасници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Drugi sudionici/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Ini účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliitisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Julianna Huszar-Dekany
S&D	Jorgen Siil
ECR	
ALDE	
Verts/ALE	
GUE/NGL	
EFDD	
ENF	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Гabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantslei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Ured predsednika/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli

Кабинет на генералния секретар/Гabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli

Γενерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirrektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Fóigazgatóság/ Direttorat Generali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
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Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Óigústeenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/ Service juridique/Pravna služba/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/ Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusseksretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/ Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/ Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Peter Lang, Tatiana Mrazikova	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
Cesarina Dall'Ozzo	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/
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Viči 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Présidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/
Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
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Membro/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membro/Člen/Poslanec/Jāsen/Ledamot
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Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficjal/Ambtenaar/Urządник/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Urädnik/Virkamies/
Tjänsteman