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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and the Commission  
pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure  
on the European Integration Process of Kosovo

**Ulrike Lunacek**  
on behalf of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

**European Parliament resolution on the European Integration Process of Kosovo**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission communication of 12 October 2011 entitled 'Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2011-2012' (COM(2011)666) and the Commission's accompanying 2011 Progress Report on Kosovo (SEC(2011)1207),
- having regard to the conclusions of the General Affairs Council meeting of 7 December 2009, 14 December 2010 and 5 December 2011 stressing and reaffirming that Kosovo, without prejudice to Member States' position on its status, should also benefit from the perspective of eventual visa liberalisation once all conditions are met, welcoming the intention of the Commission to launch a visa dialogue towards the end of the year and inviting it to move forward with a structured approach to bring the people of Kosovo closer to the EU,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1244/2009 of 30 November 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement and in particular its Annex I in which a reference to persons residing in Kosovo was made for reasons of legal clarity and security<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to Council Joint Action 2008/124/CFSP of 4 February 2008 on the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo, EULEX KOSOVO, amended by Council Joint Action 2009/445/CFSP of 9 June 2009 and by Council Decision 2010/322/CFSP of 8 June 2010,
- having regard to Council Joint Action 2008/123/CFSP of 4 February 2008 appointing a European Union Special Representative in Kosovo and Council Decision 2011/478/CFSP of 28 July 2011 extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative in Kosovo,
- having regard to the Statement by European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Commission Vice-President on the situation in Kosovo, 27 July 2011,
- having regard to the Council of the European Union's press releases on the EU facilitated dialogue,
- having regard to the joint statements of the EP-Kosovo Inter-Parliamentary meetings of 28-29 May 2008, 6-7 April 2009, 22-23 June 2010, and 20 May 2011,
- having regard to the final report of European Union Election Expert Mission to Kosovo of 25 January 2011,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 336, 18.12.2009, p. 1.

- having regard to its previous resolutions,
  - having regard to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244(1999),
  - having regard to the consensus resolution of UN General Assembly of 9 September 2010 (A/RES/64/298) tabled jointly by Serbia and the 27 EU Member States on the Belgrade-Prishtina dialogue, stating that its aim would be to "promote cooperation, achieve progress on the path to the European Union and improve the lives of the people" and welcoming the EU's willingness to facilitate it;
  - having regard to the UN Special Envoy's final report on Kosovo's future status and the Comprehensive Status Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement of 26 March 2007, and in particular its provisions on Human Rights and Fundamental freedoms of Communities and their Members, Religious and Cultural Heritage, and decentralization,
  - having regard to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the accordance with international law of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo of 22 July 2011,
  - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas at the Thessaloniki European Council of 19 and 20 June 2003 a promise was made to all the Western Balkan States that they would join the European Union and this promise was reiterated at the High-Level Meeting on the Western Balkans in Sarajevo on 2 June 2010,
  - B. whereas the European Union has always defended the sustainability of multiethnic and pluri-religious states in the Western Balkans, based on the values of democracy, tolerance and multiculturalism,
  - C. whereas regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations are essential in process of European integration and security and stability in the region,
  - D. whereas the Ahtisaari Plan remains a good framework for resolving the conflict over the north and maintaining the territorial and political integrity of Kosovo,
  - E. whereas the persistent weakness of the rule of law delays the maturing of the democracy and harms the economy, undermining the long-term development,
  - F. whereas among key priorities of the EULEX mission are the fight against corruption and organised crime as well as investigation and prosecution of war crimes,
1. Notes that the declaration of independence of Kosovo has been recognised by **85** countries, including 22 EU Member States; would welcome the remaining five EU Member States to do likewise; would equally welcome their more active participation in mediation between Serbia and Kosovo; reiterates how important it is for the EU to engage with Kosovo and considers this commitment vital for preserving stability and security in the EU's immediate neighbourhood;
  2. Stresses the European perspective of Kosovo in line with the European perspective of the

whole region of Western Balkans, which is a powerful incentive for the necessary reforms; underlines that the EU strategy to make this perspective tangible to Kosovar citizens has not been successful so far and that few results have been achieved; welcomes the appointment of the double-hatted EU Special Representative / Head of EU Office;

3. Underlines the need for a better cooperation between the EU missions and the international missions present in Kosovo, in order to avoid the overlap of activities and to ensure an efficient resource management;
4. Reiterates its view expressed in its resolutions of 29 March 2007, 5 February 2009 and 8 July 2010 that rejects the possibility of the partitioning of Kosovo;
5. Is concerned about serious irregularities during the parliamentary elections in December 2010; calls for proper investigation of the electoral frauds, also exposing individuals politically responsible for irregularities, and for swift and adequate punishment of all the perpetrators, including local electoral officials, in order to end the culture of impunity, undermining the society's trust in and legitimacy of the state institutions; calls for the priority to be given to the resolution of election cases and for the institutions of Kosovo (State Prosecutor, Supreme Court and Kosovo Judicial Council) to improve the coordination of their work to this end; underlines that well working electoral framework is essential for functioning of democratic institutions;
6. Calls on all the parties, including both those in the government and in the opposition, to swiftly proceed with the constitutional and electoral reforms, as they pledged to the electorate after the elections, in order to make the electoral system more transparent and bring it in line with international standards, in particular these of the Council of Europe;
7. Notes that the Kosovo institutions successfully dealt with the crisis around the Presidency in early 2011 and commends Kosovo on having their first female Head of State and notes that President Jahjaga also is the youngest democratically elected Head of State in Europe;
8. Regrets several delays to the start of visa dialogue and reiterates its support for its launch; welcomes the Commission's intention to finally start the process towards the end of the year, in accordance with previous commitments regarding the fulfilment of the European perspective of the Western Balkans and without prejudice to Member States' positions on the status of Kosovo, in order to counter the increasing isolation among Kosovar citizens, which has negative impact, primarily on most vulnerable groups and youth; welcomes that this intention was supported by the Council at its meeting of 5 December 2011, which reaffirmed that eventual visa liberalisation would be granted to Kosovo once all the conditions were met; stresses that improved people-to-people contacts are a powerful incentive for democratisation and a driver for further reforms in the region;
9. Stresses that the return of refugees and internally displaced persons remains a challenge for Kosovo; welcomes the efforts of the Kosovar authorities in this field and encourages further efforts on central and local level in order to ensure the socio-economic integration of the returnees, taking into special consideration the needs of the Serbian, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian returnees;
10. Underlines the need to ensure effective co-operation and co-ordination between all the

relevant ministries and, in cooperation with international stakeholders, to provide further training, capacity-building and technical assistance to local institutions and co-ordination structures; underlines the importance of resolving property restitution issues of the returnees and the restoration of property rights of the citizens of Serbia in Kosovo;

11. Underlines the necessity of substantive progress on the issue of legal succession and property rights between Kosovo and neighbouring countries;
12. Underlines the importance of the dialogue with Belgrade, carried out after the agreement between Serbia and Kosovo at the UN GA in September 2010 and facilitated by the EU, for the regional cooperation and the European perspective of both countries; welcomes the fact that eight rounds have taken place so far, resulting in several preliminary agreements, the most recent one on 2 December on integrated management for crossing points (IBM) in the northern part of the country, introducing single joint integrated monitoring arrangements;
13. However, is concerned that previous agreements, important to improve everyday lives of citizens on both sides, such as the one on customs stamps, have not been implemented by the Serbian side, which has led to the decision in July 2011 by the Kosovar government to implement reciprocal measures; calls on the Serbian government to show willingness to achieve the aims of the dialogue and to reach agreements, in particular to find arrangements allowing for full participation of Kosovo in regional cooperation, as well as implement them swiftly and effectively;
14. Stresses that both sides are expected to pursue a pragmatic approach, which requires commitment, perseverance and a sense of responsibility in seeking solutions; hopes that agreements on all remaining topics will be reached soon in order to pave the way for genuine regional stability and good neighbourly relations and to enable Kosovo to enter into contractual agreements with the EU;
15. Underlines the importance of ensuring that Parliaments and societies of both states be adequately informed about the outcomes of the dialogue, in order to ensure the transparency and legitimacy of the process; points out that EU should also play a role in such communication as well as in bringing closer the two sides and facilitating people to people contacts;
16. Urges Council and Commission of the European Union to negotiate as soon as possible a Trade Agreement with Kosovo, which is crucial for the development of the country and a successful fight against unemployment;
17. Is deeply concerned about the unstable and tense situation in the North and strongly condemns unacceptable violence towards KFOR and Kosovo authorities in the area, leading to loss of life and injuries; calls for restoring the rule of law in this area, by intensifying fight against organized crime and criminal structures operating out of control of any authority and using this area as a safe heaven; calls for swift and complete removal of all the road blocks and for ensuring free movement of people and goods, including access to crossing points for the international community and for Kosovo customs officers and welcomes the statement of the President of Serbia in this regard; calls on the Serbian government to dissolve parallel structures operating on the territory of Kosovo;

18. Underlines that implementation of the Ahtisaari plan in the North would give Kosovar Serbs broad autonomy, guaranteeing their rights and fundamental freedoms; reiterates that only a negotiated result in the dialogue will bring sustainable solutions and calls on the Kosovar government to make every effort so as to develop and implement an effective outreach strategy to citizens in the North in order to facilitate it; urges the international community to continue its support for the Kosovar government in finding long-lasting peaceful resolution of the situation in the North;
19. Stresses that authorities need to take further steps to reach out to Serbian minority, particularly in the north, in order to fully integrate it into Kosovo society; to this end, welcomes increased representation of Kosovar Serbs in local and national administration, which is necessary to ensure the visibility of Serbian minority's interests and to increase its capacity to participate in the decision-making process, contributing to the unity of Kosovo;
20. Welcomes the increased engagement of the Serbian community south of Ibar in the institutional framework of Kosovo, as demonstrated by the increased participation in the elections and in the census; underlines the crucial role of the decentralisation process to this end and calls for continued efforts to make it successful, and in particular to ensure good cooperation between all levels of administration; calls for increasing capacity and budgets of local administration; hopes that this model of cooperation can be swiftly extended to the North as foreseen in the Ahtisaari plan and calls for an effective decentralisation process to be also implemented in the area to mitigate ethnic tensions and foster stability;
21. Underlines the importance of the rule of law mission EULEX, which is a sign of the entire EU and its 27 Member States' commitment to the improvement of rule of law in Kosovo, and asks for initiatives of the European Union to strengthen the efficiency and acceptance of this important mission in the whole territory of Kosovo; calls on Kosovar authorities to enhance their cooperation with EULEX and to ensure support for EULEX's work in all areas of its mandate; notes the activities of EULEX in the North and calls on the mission to increase its efforts in order to fulfil its mandate in the area; notes an ongoing process of review of the mission's mandate, aiming at review of planning, operations, management and oversight of EULEX and adapting them to changing situation on the ground;
22. Acknowledges the good progress made in some fields such as police and customs and is of opinion that its core activities in the fields of corruption and organised crime as well as of war crimes should be stepped up so that the mission can deliver more tangible results; in this regard, is concerned about the large backlog of cases caused by a high number of cases transferred to EULEX by the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo; stresses responsibility of EULEX regarding its executive powers as well as its mandate to monitor, mentor and advise; in this regard, encourages EULEX to take concrete actions to move the process of high-level corruption cases forward; in this aspect, draws attention to the utmost importance of work of prosecutors and judges and calls on the EU Member States to ensure their sufficient numbers by seconding appropriate personnel and, if need be, taking recourse to the contracting procedures to fill the gaps;
23. Calls on the EU and its Member States to ensure adequate logistical arrangements to allow

EULEX staff to fulfil the mission mandate also in crisis situations, such as the one currently occurring on the northern gates in the Mitrovicë/Mitrovica region; draws attention to the importance of ensuring continuity in mission's work; is concerned by announcement of several EU Member States to withdraw their contingents of Formed Police Units and calls on them to reconsider their decisions in view of continuous needs on the ground;

24. Underlines the necessity for effective internal management, coordination and cooperation within EULEX; stresses the need for transparency and accountability in the work of EULEX as well as for displaying sensitivity to the political context of its activities in order to strengthen its legitimacy in the eyes of the citizens; moreover, underlines the importance of keeping close communication with the government and the Kosovo citizens and media; encourages EULEX to communicate the accomplishments of the mission to the Kosovo citizens, to work to increase the trust in the mission and to be alert to the expectations of the citizens;
25. Considers that EULEX should urgently address certain structural deficiencies such as weak internal accountability and weak external oversight;
26. Welcomes the gradual transfer of responsibility in terms of protection of cultural and religious sites to local police, which demonstrates the functioning of local authorities;
27. Encourages the Assembly of Kosovo to increase its role in the democratic and legislative processes in Kosovo; stresses the need for strengthening Assembly's oversight function of government activities, particularly in controlling budget expenditures; is concerned about the clarity of rules of procedures of the Assembly and the adherence to them; stresses that, in order to fulfil its functions effectively, the institution needs to operate in compliance with clear set of rules of procedure and with adequate capacities; welcomes the planned twinning programme and calls for more support to develop both the operational capacities and expertise in the Assembly;
28. Underlines the important role of the European Integration Committee and the Ministry of European Integration and welcomes the improved relations between the two institutions; however, calls on the Kosovar government to further strengthen the bodies and improve their cooperation;
29. Welcomes the establishment of the EULEX Special Investigative Task Force on the alleged inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs, as called for in the Council of Europe's resolution of 25 January 2011; calls for thorough investigation into these issues; calls on all the actors concerned, including the Kosovar and the Albanian authorities, to cooperate fully with the investigations and on all the neighbouring countries to give their full support to the work of the Task Force;
30. Stresses the need for further efforts to locate persons missing since the 1998-1999 conflict, as well as those who disappeared afterwards; underlines that it is a basic human right for the families to know the fate of their relatives and that it is a vital precondition for reconciliation between the communities and for a peaceful future in the region; fully supports, therefore, the efforts of the working group on missing persons and that of EULEX for the modernisation of forensic medicine in Kosovo; calls for more effort in

dealing with cases related to the March 2004 events, as the handling of criminal cases in this context continues to be obstructed by unwillingness and inefficiency;

31. Stresses that widespread and systemic corruption continues to be a major challenge in the country, as in the rest of the Western Balkans region, undermining the citizens' trust in the rule of law and affecting their access to public services; welcomes the improvements in the legislative framework and calls for their swift and proper implementation, tackling this challenge more proactively, in particular by enhancing the capacities of law enforcement agencies and of judiciary in this field as well as ensuring transparency of public procurement and tendering procedures; stresses the need for a pro-active approach and better cooperation between the Anti-Corruption Agency, the police and the prosecution; emphasizes that the existing climate of impunity and absence of adequate sanctions for corruption present one of the biggest problems in Kosovo and urges the Kosovar authorities to develop a track record of prosecution of anti-corruption cases, including at the highest levels of political and economic power;
32. Takes the view that the issue of the rule of law in Kosovo continues to be one of serious concern and requires urgent attention; encourages the authorities to undertake swiftly the necessary reforms that advance the European perspective of Kosovo and ultimately benefit the population;
33. Is seriously concerned about the role played by Kosovo organised crime in various criminal activities in the region, involving drugs and trafficking in human beings; notes that capacity of the police and judiciary to fight organized crime remains at an early stage of development and calls on Kosovar authorities to immediately take steps in order to improve them; equally, calls on them to increase the quality and transparency of the legislative process in order to provide Kosovo with a sound legal framework and to improve confidence in the legal system;
34. Underlines the importance of international cooperation in order to effectively fight organised crime; regrets the fact that, due to lack of full agreement in the international community on the recognition of Kosovo as a state, Kosovo could not establish direct cooperation with Europol and Interpol, and that the exchange of information carried out through, respectively, EULEX and UNMIK, has so far not functioned properly; calls on Europol and Interpol to establish effective information flows with Kosovo, by means of cooperation agreements or by granting Kosovo observer status; equally, underlines the importance of exchange of information between FRONTEX and Kosovo;
35. Welcomes the progress in the reform of judiciary but calls for more efforts to ensure the professionalism of judges and prosecutors as well as their independence from any political interference and to tackle corruption in their ranks; to this end, welcomes the active role of the Constitutional Court in ensuring the constitutionality of parliamentary processes and the clarity on the issue of the functional immunity; notes that, despite progress in some areas, the judicial system in Kosovo remains weak and a significant backlog of cases persist; stresses in this respect the necessity of pursuing reforms; underlines the utmost importance of fully functional and effective programmes of witness protection and witness relocation for the justice system to function properly and calls for immediate steps to implement the witness protection law and witness protection units within the police and



judiciary; moreover, calls on the EU Member States and other countries participating in EULEX to commit themselves to participate in witness relocation programme; regrets the fact that the court in Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica still does not function at full capacity and calls on the Kosovar and Serbian authorities to resolve the issue in order to improve access to justice of the citizens in the North;

36. Underlines the importance of professional, independent, accountable and accessible civil service for proper functioning of the state institutions; to this end, calls for swift adoption of the action plan to implement the reforms foreseen by the public administration strategy; stresses that the administration needs to reflect Kosovar society in terms of gender and ethnic composition and that its composition should be decided on the basis of professional merit and should be free from political interference in the appointment system;
37. Underlines that free, unbiased, strong and independent media, in line with international media standards guaranteeing freedom of speech and access to information, are a cornerstone of democracy; to this end, calls on the government to establish appropriate legal framework and ensure its effective implementation, including putting an end to defamation as a criminal offence; notes with concern continuing political interference in the work of media and urges the authorities to take immediate steps to protect journalists from threats and other pressures in their work, including selective use of state advertising allocations, in order to promote independent and pluralistic media, thus providing access to information for the Kosovo citizens; calls for protection of journalists and for establishment of minimum working rights and conditions for them; calls for ensuring transparency of media ownership and for the financial and editorial independence of the public broadcaster, including an appropriate share, such as 20 per cent, of its programming coming from independent producers, including current affairs programs;
38. Is concerned that discrimination is still a serious problem in the country and calls on the government to implement a broad anti-discrimination strategy in line with international human rights standards, guaranteeing the equality of all people regardless of their ethnic origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation or disability in order to promote tolerance, respect and understanding of others in an effort to raise human rights awareness at central and local levels; stresses the need for further steps to better enforce legal and administrative remedies for infringements of human rights; in particular, draws attention to the situation of women and of Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian communities and to ensure the educational integration of the children through education in mother-tongue; in view of ethnical diversity of Kosovo, urges the authorities to ensure the access to effective multilingual public services in line with international and European standards;
39. Underlines the importance of the office of Ombudsman for the protection of citizens' rights and freedoms and encourages the government and the Assembly of Kosovo to step up their efforts to implement the Ombudsman's recommendations; calls for more political, administrative and financial support for this institution as it should play a key role as a guarantor of human rights; to this end, notes that insufficient human and financial resources as well as the lack of adequate work premises remain an obstacle for proper functioning of the office;
40. Urges the government of Kosovo to ensure that the constitutional provisions aimed at

securing respect for and protection of minorities are guaranteed in practice;

41. Points out that Kosovo's legal framework sets a foundation for the institutionalization of gender equality, towards implementing Resolution 1325 on "Women, peace and security"; stresses, nevertheless that social norms, tradition, poor economic conditions, and weak institutions, particularly the judiciary, allow for continued systematic exceptions to the application of existing legislation, exemplified by women's limited access to property, hesitancy to file for inheritance rights, inability to claim child custody, insufficient protection from domestic violence, lack of access to justice for crimes committed, unequal access to education for girls, economic inequality between women and men, and continued underrepresentation of women in political decision-making at all levels are evidence that Resolution 1325 is far from respected; calls, in this regard, on the Kosovo authorities to make all efforts in order to implement this resolution;
42. Welcomes the progress made in the area of women's rights and gender equality, for example the introduction of paid maternity-leave up to 9 months; is however concerned about the high drop-out rates amongst girls and by the underrepresentation of women on the labour market including in key sectors of society; calls on the authorities of Kosovo to more actively promote the participation of and strengthening the position of women on the labour market;
43. Recalls the vital role of inter-cultural education in Kosovo in fostering a spirit of respect, acceptance and tolerance among nations, ethnic or religious groups, where the identity of each group is preserved and the identity of the other is acknowledged; further urges the Kosovo authorities to provide an educational curriculum that covers the history, culture and other attributes of all communities traditionally present in Kosovo and thus foster a spirit of tolerance;
44. Encourages the Government and the Parliament of Kosovo to develop a modern educational system of public and private schools, which respects the separation between the religious communities and the state, and is based on the cultural and religious diversity and the old tradition of tolerance in the Kosovar society;
45. Calls for stronger efforts to protect cultural and religious heritage in Kosovo, and in particular Serbian Orthodox churches and monasteries and any other monuments representing universal and European cultural heritage; to this end, calls for effective implementation of Special Protective Zones, including halting illegal constructions around and within their perimeters as well as ensuring their sustainable integration in the local communities; draws attention to the need to adopt the laws on protection of Serbian medieval Orthodox Church monasteries designated as world cultural heritage by UNESCO, on the Historic Centre of Prizren and on that of Velika Hoča/Hoča e Madhe; calls for the adoption of the comprehensive list of cultural heritage sites qualifying for protection, in order to achieve legal clarity and avoid ambiguities;
46. Calls for further efforts to unite the now divided university of Pristina and calls on the Commission to present proposals on what initiatives the European Union could undertake in order to unite the faculties in Mitrovica with those in Pristina;
47. Calls on the Council to immediately authorise the Commission to open negotiations for a

framework agreement with Kosovo concerning its participation in Community programmes; notes the Commission's recommendation to start with the programmes 'Culture' and 'Europe for Citizens' but underlines the importance of extending Kosovo's participation to other programmes as soon as possible;

48. Reiterates its support to the activities of civil society, and calls on the government and the Assembly to develop structures and platforms for dialogue with civil society organizations; at the same time encourages the institutions to take into consideration input from civil society while formulating social and economic policies; underlines the importance of NGOs in monitoring the activities of the authorities, in particular in the field of anti-corruption and in building inter-ethnic trust; encourages the dialogue between the civil society representatives with the view of defining common priorities and centralising their efforts in influencing public policies;
49. Recognizes that although freedom to join trade unions is guaranteed by law, there is still need for improvements to be made regarding basic labour and trade union rights; encourages Kosovo to strengthen social dialogue within the decision-making process, in policy design and the capacity-building of social partners;
50. Is concerned about the economic situation of Kosovo; underlines the importance of budget discipline and sustainable macroeconomic policies for the development of the country and underlines that the privatisation process needs to be carried out in full transparency; welcomes the steps to simplify the procedures for business start-ups, as a means of both increasing budget revenues and of decreasing high unemployment in the country, particularly among youth; to this end, regrets the delays in the prolongation of Autonomous Trade Measures;
51. Welcomes the adoption of the Strategy on SME Development for the period 2012-2016 and calls on the SME Support Agency of the Ministry of Trade and Industry to implement the Strategy; urges the Agency to increase its efforts to facilitate the proliferation of SMEs by providing access to funding, reducing the administrative burden and encouraging cooperation among SMEs in Kosovo, the region and the EU;
52. Calls on the Council and the Commission of the European Union to support, in close cooperation with the local, regional, and national authorities in Kosovo, the development of a modern, ecological, and sustainable agriculture and of SMEs for the production of renewable energy;
53. Recalls that a substantive perspective for the sustainability of Kosovo's long-term economic development can only be provided through a trade agreement between the European Union and Kosovo; welcomes the Council's invitation to the Commission to propose the way forward for a trade agreement as soon as sufficient progress has been made and urges the Commission to swiftly send a first expert mission to Kosovo to assess the country's progress in this field;
54. Welcomes a number of steps taken in the field of environmental protection; regrets that Kosovo authorities have not undertaken adequate research into alternatives to building a new coal power plant in order to replace energy production by Kosovo A + B; while recognising the fact that the increasing energy needs of Kosovo in the short-term will have

to be met with continuing the use of coal as the most important source of energy, calls, however, for more investment in alternative, cleaner technologies and in improving energy efficiency of the electricity system in line with EU targets; calls for a higher proportion of energy coming from renewables, in view of closing Kosovo A and Kosovo B power plants as soon as possible;

55. Considering that solid infrastructure is a vital precondition of sustainable development, underlines the importance of improving the transportation network and interconnecting it with the neighbouring countries, in order to facilitate movement of people and goods; regards the public transport and in particular the railways system as a cost-efficient and sustainable alternative to road transportation and calls on the government and international donors to prioritise its development and modernisation in their investment plans;
56. Welcomes the strengthening of Kosovo's relations with most of the neighbouring countries and calls for full integration of Kosovo in regional cooperation; notes the fact that Kosovo's CEFTA presidency in 2011 has been running smoothly; is, however, concerned by the fact that tensions with Serbia negatively affect the free movement of persons and goods and the general cooperation in the framework of CEFTA;
57. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government, President and Parliament of Kosovo.