



Asociacioni i Komunave të Kosovës
Association of Kosovo Municipalities
Asociacija Kosovskih Opština

ASSOCIATION OF KOSOVO MUNICIPALITIES

Bulletin

Year I, No. 6

September & October 2004

Annual AMK Conference:

Local-Central Relations: Partners for progress

The Third Annual Conference of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities will be held on 16-17 November in Prishtina

The conference will focus on relations between local and central governments and will welcome guests from Local Government Associations of England, Wales and Macedonia, and other international representatives. Also, the conference will include presentations of AMK's work during the last year, with a short summary of policy statements that address all key issues of the local government.

The Association of Kosovo Municipalities acts as a forum for the local government in Kosovo. Its main objective is to promote the local government, civil participation, local democracy and experience exchange with other European municipalities and associations.

The Association holds observer status at the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and is a permanent member of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South-Eastern Europe.

Programme

Monday 15 November 2004

18:00-19:30 Reception and welcoming address

Tuesday 16 November 2004

09:45-10:15 Registration

10:15-10:30 Welcome and opening:
Lutfi Haziri - President of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AMK)

10:30-10:45 Address by the President of Kosovo

10:45-11:30 Address by the Prime Minister of Kosovo
Address by the President of the Kosovo Assembly
Questions

11:30-11:45 Coffee break

11:45-13:00 Messages of support from representatives of:
European Agency for Reconstruction
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)
Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Team Leader, IFES Ltd.

13:00-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-15:15 Relationships between the central and local level
- European Charter of Local Self Government:
Debate chaired by Owen Masters -
Head of Pristina Office, Council of Europe

15:15-16:00 Case studies regarding central and local level relationships:
a) UK: Cllr Ruth Coleman and Local Government International Bureau Director - Mike Ashley
b) Macedonia: Association of Units of Local Self Government (ZELS)

16:00 Discussions on Kosovo issues

AMK delegation participated at the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe

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The delegation of Kosovo local authorities, lead by the President of AMK, Mr. Lutfi Haziri, participated at the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe that took place in Strasbourg,

from 3 to 5 November.

The Congress was organized in different sessions; the Institutional Committee of the Chamber of Local Authorities gave participants the possibility to discuss on the status of capital cities, inter-municipal cooperation, conference of "20 years of European Charter of Local Self-Government" and monitoring of local democracy. During the Congress session of the Institutional Committee participants debated on safeguarding fundamental rights of Local and Regional Authorities - Instruments of Council of Europe.

During the session of the Congress Standing Committee, were included debates on local and regional elections in Europe, and the Congress was informed on the 23rd October elections held in Kosovo.

Local Government of Kosovo participated in the Conference "Effective Democratic Governance at Local and Regional Level"



The Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the Council of Europe and the Government of the Republic of Croatia organized in Zagreb by the end of October, the South-Eastern Europe and Associations of Municipalities from South-Eastern Europe Countries Regional Ministerial Conference on "Effective Democratic Governance at Local and Regional Level". The Association was represented by the Executive Director, Mr. Sazan Ibrahim. Representatives of local authorities of South-Eastern Europe discussed for two days on a number of subjects regarding the effective local governance, with a special view on the role of support to effective democratic governance at local and regional level and on the type of local government we want by 2010.

This conference issued a declaration that included topics on vision and leadership, local governance, legislation, inter-boundary cooperation, resources and capacities, as well as the partnerships and transparency between local and central governments. This declaration is expected to be signed after consultations by representatives of local and central authorities. Future plans and projects of Associations of Local Authorities in South-Eastern Europe were approved during this conference, and in this respect the Association of Kosovo Municipalities presented its own future plans.

Kosovo Municipal representatives discussed in Ohrid the

ANALYSIS AND PREPARATION OF BUDGETS FROM GENDER PERSPECTIVE

The Association of Kosovo Municipalities and World Learning STAR Network has organized in Ohrid a debate on analysis and preparation of gender-sensitive budgets. Participants of this debate include Officials for Gender Issues and Directors of Municipal Departments for Budget and Finances of Kosovo, as well as representatives of NGO's that deal with gender issues. There will be discussion on themes like: understanding budgets,

type and functioning of budgets in Kosovo and decision-making bodies, problems in drafting and analyzing gender-sensitive budgets, limitations in using budget initiatives, instruments of budgeting, strategies for undertaking analysis of budget for gender issues, etc. Officials for gender issues and officials for finances and budgets in municipalities of Kosovo worked in different groups. The first group that was from 4 to 6 November included representatives

from Kamenica, Gjilani, Podujeva, Fushë Kosova, Novoberda, Klina, Decan, Suhareka, Skenderaj and Dragash. The second group that was from 8 to 10 November included representatives from Viti, Kaçanik, Obiliq, Drenas, Istog, Vushtrri, Malishevo and Rahovec. The last group that was from 11 to 13 November included representatives from Ferizaj, Prishtina, Lipjani, Shtime, Gjakova, Mitrovica, Prizreni and Peja.

Check out the AMK website

www.komunat-ks.net

new
new
new

The Association of Kosovo Municipalities has opened its official website www.komunat-ks.net, where all its activities, communication with internal and external opinion and much other different information are presented.

At the AMK website you can find fundamental documents of the Association, the organizational structure, information on activities in Kosovo and international arena, partners, AMK commissions, many pictures from different activities at the photo gallery, etc.

In addition, you can find all UNMIK Regulations and Kosovo Assembly Laws, as well as results from 2000 and 2002 local elections in Kosovo. There are also links to Kosovo Municipalities websites, central local institutions in Kosovo, international organizations, Kosovo and international media, etc.

Publications are also in PDF format and can be downloaded very easily. The website is provided in three languages: Albanian, English and Serbian.

You can also find at this website the Newsletter of the Association, the AMK's vision, the research on Standards and all Policy Statements.

After physical attack in Serbia

AMK CONDEMNS THE PHYSICAL ATTACK IN BELGRADE AGAINST THE MUNICIPAL PRESIDENT OF SHTRPCE

The Association of Kosovo Municipalities condemns the physical attack against the former Municipal President of Strepce, Mr. Sladjan Ilic, in Belgrade, where he suffered physical injuries and material damages to his vehicle. The Association of Kosovo Municipalities, being a representative of municipal interests, deems that these acts of physical attacks against people elected by the citizens will not help the democracy and stability in the region - as mentioned in the reaction of AMK signed by its President, Mr. Lutfi Haziri.

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Observer Status



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Permanent Member