



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

ASSOCIACION OF KOSOVO MUNICIPALITIES

# Bulletin

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AMK AND THE COLLEGIUM OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES ASK FOR:

## Chief Executive's salary to be leveled to Ministry Permanent Secretary's salary

The Association of Kosovo Municipalities and the Collegium of Chief Executives of Kosovo Municipalities submitted a request to central institutions of Kosovo in relation to Chief Executive's salary level. This request has been signed by the AMK Acting President, Mr. Ismet Beqiri, and the Collegium President, Mr. Mustafë Pllana.



MEETING BETWEEN MUNICIPAL COORDINATORS FOR STANDARDS REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY FOR RETURNS IN 2005

## Standards are necessary for citizens of Kosovo and should not be perceived as a condition for the final status

### Municipal representatives of the Swedish Region of Kronenberg visit AMK

Representatives of the Association of Swedish Municipalities from the Region of Kronenberg visited AMK. The Swedish delegation, comprised of Mr. Harald Fredrikson, Ms. Eva Schomer, and Mr. Harald Niklasson, accompanied by the representative of OPM Office of Gender Equality, Ms. Cyme Mahmutaj and the coordinator of NGO "Dera e Hapur" (Open Door), Ms. Belgjzare Muharremi, met with AMK Executive Director (designate), Mr. Sazan Ibrahim, and AMK Communication Manager, Mr. Arsim Osmani. The participants exchanged experiences on municipal organiza-



tion in the regional and local level and discussed on possible visits of AMK staff to Sweden to learn in practice about their experiences. They also discussed the possibility to implement

some projects mainly on gender equality between Kronenberg region and Prizren region. In this respect, the Swedish delegation met with representatives of the Municipality of Prizren, Malisheva, Dragash, Rahovec and Therandë. It is worth mentioning that this regional level meeting was preceded by a visit last year to Sweden of a Kosovo delegation comprised of Municipal President of Shtime, Mr. Fehmi Mujota, and former Municipal Chief Executive of Dragash, Mr. Shaban Halimi.

# Municipal Chief Executives of Kosovo commit to nominate a Municipal Coordinator for Children's Rights

The Children's Rights Forum and the Association of Kosovo Municipalities held a joint meeting with Municipal Chief Executives of Kosovo to discuss the possibility of nominating a Municipal Coordinator for Children's Rights.



AMK Acting President, Mr. Ismet Beqiri, stated that "every society hopes and expects that children will become competent and responsible citizens that will contribute to the welfare of their community. The rights of many children in the world are violated and this prevents them to develop and grow up to become active citizens of the society. We cannot expect these children whose rights are violated and whose needs are not considered to become productive adults who respect other's rights. The violation of rights does not only lead to personal suffering but also leads to future political and social problems, and probably to violent conflicts".

The Director of "Save the Children" and representative of Children's Rights Forum, Ms. Katherine Mahoney, stated that "the Children's Rights Forum in Kosovo is a group of 15 NGO's that has been established in September 2002". Regarding the children's rights she added that "the Standards call for a greater focus on human rights, because most of the time children's rights are not discussed even though children make up 43% of the Kosovo population. We cannot talk about human rights if we do not address children's rights". Regarding children's rights today in Kosovo, Ms. Mahoney added that "not all children fulfill their right to education; 10 % of girls leave school without even finishing the fifth grade; 30 % of girls leave school without finishing the ninth grade; and 60 % of non-Serbian minorities leave school without finishing secondary education".

## Conclusions

1. Municipalities are independent to decide on the position of the Municipal Coordinator for Children's Rights as a full position not as an additional task. Municipalities are encouraged to nominate the Municipal Coordinator for Children's Rights as a full position, if possible.
2. Municipalities are suggested that this official be supported by the Municipality, work with other departments (education, health, culture, youth, social welfare) and report directly to the Chief Executive.
3. Names for Municipal Coordinators for Children's Rights should be sent to AMK within 10 days to coordinate the technical and organizational support for these officials.
4. Municipal Coordinators for Children's Rights and Municipal bodies should cooperate with NGO's to build professional capacities and advance children's rights in Municipalities of Kosovo.

The representative of the Ministry of Local Government, Mr. Vilhard Shala, stated that "the Ministry of Local Government will support every initiative of Municipalities of Kosovo for the enforcement of the position of the Municipal Coordinator for Children's Rights". Municipal President of Kamenica, Mr. Shaip Surdulli, stated that "we should use all our municipal capacities to establish

the position of the Municipal Coordinator for Children's Rights". Municipal President of Peja, Mr. Ramiz Reka, stated that "the Municipality of Peja has already established the position of the Municipal Coordinator for Children's Rights". AMK Acting President, Mr. Ismet Beqiri, proposed to nominate a civil servant of the Municipality to handle this additional task until the position of Municipal Coordinator for Children's Rights has been established. In the Municipality of Prishtina, this task has been temporarily assigned to the Officer for Youth".

Municipal President of Shtime, Mr. Naim Ismajli, stated that "the Municipality should engage in the nomination of the Municipal Coordinator for Children's Rights. Actually, our Municipality does not have the possibility to establish such a position but can only assign this task to a civil servant, since there are many requests for a Coordinator for Standards, Coordinator for Gender, etc. In many small Municipalities, civil servants are obliged to carry out several tasks". Municipal Chief Executive of Shtime, Mr. Haki Rugova, stated that "we should not discuss whether or not to nominate a Municipal Coordinator for Children's Rights, because every Chief Executive should find a way to nominate the coordinator with full rights".

## AMK Commission are operating

The AMK Annual Conference of November 2004 approved the project of establishing its Commissions to assist Municipalities in analyzing local government issues and present them to the Government. The Association Assembly has nominated Municipal Presidents and former Analysis Groups members, and Chief Executive Collegium members as participants of these commissions. The first round of Commission meetings has been completed so far and their work has been based on AMK Policy Statement recommendations of Analysis Groups. The meetings were held in the following dates: Commission of Public Utilities on January 25th, 2005, Commission of Local Finance on January 27th, 2005, Commission of Business Registration and Licensing on February 1st, 2005, Commission of Education

on February 2nd, 2005, Commission of Administrative Reform and Citizen Participation on February 3rd, 2005, Commission of Spatial Planning and Public Places on February 8th, 2005, Commission of Local Economic Development and Tourism on February 9th, 2005, Commission of Property on February 14th, 2005, Commission of Culture, Youth and Sports on February 15th, 2005, Commission of Human Resource Management and Gender on February 16th, 2005, and the Commission of Primary Healthcare and Social Welfare on February 17th, 2005.

It is worth mentioning that a request from the 25.01.2005 meeting of the Commission of Public Utilities, where representatives of Department of Waters of MESP participated, was to organize an open debate by MESP and

Municipal Presidents, Chief Executives and Directors of Departments related to public utilities on the Law on Waters and Draft Law on Waste. This open debate was held on February 11th, 2005 with the presence of many Municipal representatives.

The Commission of Local Finance in its first meeting raised the issue of traffic fines. Municipalities have complained regarding the lack of transparency on income from mandatory traffic fines. Based on Administrative Reform 2001/9, traffic fines are paid through the court. Now, Municipalities ask for this type of income to be included in their budget. Commission members have requested that in their second meeting be present representatives from Department of Judicial Administration, Department of Budget and Finance of KPS, and MEF. The Commission in its second meeting held in February 24th, 2005, agreed to organize a roundtable with five Commission members, MEF Minister Haki Shatri and the Director of Kosovo Budget.



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Association of Kosovo Municipalities  
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AMK AND THE COLLEGIUM OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES ASK FOR:

## Chief Executive's salary to be leveled to Ministry Permanent Secretary's salary

The Association of Kosovo Municipalities and the Collegium of Chief Executives of Kosovo Municipalities submitted a request to central institutions of Kosovo in relation to Chief Executive's salary level.

The Association of Kosovo Municipalities and the Collegium of Chief Executives of Kosovo Municipalities submitted a request to central institutions of Kosovo in relation to Chief Executive's salary level. This request has been signed by the AMK Acting President, Mr. Ismet Beqiri, and the Collegium President, Mr. Mustafë Pllana. The issue of personal income concerning Chief Executives was one of the main topics discussed during the meeting of Chief Executives on February 9, 2005.

Being witness to the low level of salaries in respect to obligations and responsibilities they have as Municipal Assembly administration leaders and this level being similar to the salary of a Department's Director, the Collegium asks for the Chief Executive's salary to be leveled to a Ministry Permanent Secretary's salary. AMK and the Collegium asks for the Chief Executive's salary to be leveled to a Ministry Permanent Secretary's salary and therefore be paid retroactively from January 1, 2005.



Ismet Beqiri



Mustafë Pllana

This request has been signed by the AMK Acting President, Mr. Ismet Beqiri, and the Collegium President, Mr. Mustafë Pllana, and has been submitted to the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Mr. Ramush Haradinaj, the Minister of Public Services, Ms. Melihate Termkolli, the Minister of Economy and Finance, Mr. Haki Shatri, and the Minister of Local Government, Mr. Lutfi Haziri.

MEETING BETWEEN MUNICIPAL COORDINATORS FOR STANDARDS REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY FOR RETURNS IN 2005

## Standards are necessary for citizens of Kosovo and should not be perceived as a condition for the final status

Municipal Coordinators for Standards held a meeting at AMK Offices to discuss experiences of Municipalities regarding the development of the Municipal Strategy for Returns in 2005.

AMK Acting President, Mr. Ismet Beqiri, opened the meeting by stating that "we are now entering a busy phase regarding the implementation of Standards for Kosovo. The local authority is responsible for these standards which are a necessity for Kosovo citizens, but they cannot be perceived as a condition for the final status of Kosovo". Mr. Beqiri added that "not everything is in the hands of Municipalities, even though we will fulfill and implement successfully everything that is our responsibility. We will commit to establish the necessary conditions for sustainable return and reintegration. The returns process does not involve only Serbs, but everyone". Regarding the development of the Municipal Strategy for Returns in 2005, Mr. Beqiri pointed out that "we should exchange experiences in order to help out Municipalities that are behind the schedule and facilitate their strategy development".

During this meeting all Municipal Coordinators for Standards presented their work on the development of the Municipal Strategy for Returns and Reintegration. The Municipal Coordinators for Returns assessed that these are practical issues that should be coordinated between the Association and



the Government, in order to implement the Standards in practice. They also filled out questionnaires that will help in the assessment of the municipal performance until now. In addition, Municipal Coordinators agreed to work together in successfully fulfilling their tasks and duties regarding the implementation of Standards.

# Municipalities of Kosovo have fulfilled most Standards for Kosovo that are in their responsibility

The Association of Kosovo Municipalities with the financial support of KFOS organized a two day Conference in Ohrid on January 28-29, with Municipal Presidents and Chief Executives. The Conference focused on municipalities' achievements on the implementation of Standards for Kosovo, particularly on Standard III (Freedom of Movement) and IV (Returns and Reintegration). 12 Municipal Presidents, 6 Vice Presidents, 15 Chief Executives, 1 Vice Chief Executive, 3 Municipal representatives, Ministry of Local Government representatives (Vice Minister Aziz Lila and Ministry Advisor Naim Behluli) and AMK representatives participated in this conference. The conference was opened by AMK Executive Director (designate), Mr. Sazan Ibrahim, who stated that "this meeting is a follow-up of other AMK meetings regarding the assessment of the implementation of Standards for Kosovo that fall under the responsibility of Municipalities of Kosovo". The floor was left to the Vice Minister of Local Government, Mr. Aziz Lila, who stated that MLG has established a good cooperation with Municipalities of Kosovo, with a particular view on the implementation of Standards for Kosovo. Municipal President of Obiliq, Mr. Ismet Hashani, stated that "Municipalities have to rely on central government budget to fulfill some of the Standards that fall under their responsibilities". Municipal Chief Executive of Prizren, Mr. Ragip Gajraku, stated that "some issues are being extremely politicized, such as the issue of legal regular procedures. Are we injecting a political dosage to the process of building a normal legal state in Kosovo?" Municipal President of Vushtri, Mr. Muharrem Shabani, stated that "these standards have juridical and political grounds. I'd like to point out that our Municipality has held several meetings with citizens of all communities regarding the returns issue, and in this respect Serbs admit they cannot accept anything from those coming from outside of Kosovo". Municipal President of Gjilan, Mr. Xhemajl Hyseni, stated that "we are gathered here to assess where we stand on the implementation of Standards, and in fact we immediately started to criti-

cize the Government and AMK". Municipal Chief Executive of Shtime, Mr. Naim Ismajli, stated that "we should definitely change the communication methods between Municipalities and central institutions". Municipal President of Peja, Mr. Ali Lajçi, stated that "there are different problems between Municipalities. In Peja there are 3500 burned down houses, and we are still asked to implement standards. We will implement these standards, but this should not be excessive". Municipal President of Gjakove, Mr. Aqif Shehu stated that "we are here to discuss on the implementation plan of Standards for Kosovo, which has a deadline". Municipal President of Kamenica, Mr. Shaip Surdull, headed the session "Where do the Municipalities stand on the implementation of Standards" and in relation to this matter stated that "this is not the first meeting where Municipal representatives are gathered to discuss on Standards for Kosovo. We should start by discussing what we have achieved so far and where we stand regarding the implementation of Standards and regarding the discussions on the final status". Municipal Presidents and Chief Executives (Mr. Hajriz Bekteshi, Mr. Mustafë Pllana, Mr. Ramë Manaj, Mr. Fadil Ferati, Mr. Nahit Elshani, Mr. Aqif Shehu, Mr. Mazlum Qafani, Mr. Xhemajl Hyseni etc.) reported in detail on the achievements of Municipalities regarding the implementation of Standards of Freedom of Movement and Returns and Reintegration. The Municipal Chief Executive of Prizren, Mr. Ragip Gajraku, headed the session "Problems and difficulties regarding the implementation of Standards" and stated that "the Municipality of Prizren is like a mini Kosovo where several communities with different languages and cultures live together. In this Municipality a great part of Standards has been fulfilled". The Municipal Coordinator for Standards in Gjakova, Mr. Zef Komoni stated that "our Municipality has fulfilled to its best possibilities the Standard on freedom of movement". Municipal President of Peja, Mr. Ali Lajçi, asked the participants to discuss the administrative side rather than the technical side of the implementation plan".

Municipal Vice President of Mitrovica, Mr. Mustafë Ibrahim, stated that "our Municipality has a Municipal Assembly administration and UNMIK administration, and we still do not have access to the Northern part of Mitrovica". Municipal President of Obiliq, Mr. Ismet Hashani, stated that "citizen security is KFOR's responsibility and in our Municipality Serbs move freely". Municipal Chief Executive of Shtime, Mr. Naim Ismajli, stated that "in general, Municipalities have fulfilled the Standards. It is obvious that each Municipality has established a group for returns and has called for return and reintegration. They are working on electing a Returns Officer and there have been no more problems since the March events". Municipal Chief Executive of Dragash, Mr. Bexhet Xheladini, stated that "there are no problems in our Municipality regarding freedom of movement and use of language, the only problem related to implementation of Standards is the financial cost". Municipal Chief Executive of Kamenica, Mr. Islam Taçi, stated that "Municipalities should contact with MLG not with AMK". Municipal President of Vushtri, Mr. Muharrem Shabani, headed the session "How to overcome problems and achieve implementation of Standards" and stated that "these discussions show that great work has been done regarding the implementation of Standards and everything will be included in the conference conclusions". Municipal President of Peja, Mr. Ali Lajçi, stated that "standards should affect the return of everyone and this integration has already been achieved to some level". Municipal President of Gjakova, Mr. Aqif Shehu, stated that "KPS in Gjakova used to send us daily reports, which does not happen so often now". Municipal President of Peja, Mr. Ali Lajçi, added that "police reports are only informational for Municipal Assemblies". Municipal Chief Executive, Mr. Ragip Gajraku, stated that "we have submitted a letter to KPS to request daily information, and in return they accuse us of attempting to take up their competences". (Arsim Osmani)



Municipal Presidents and



Chief Executives debated in Ohrid  
OHRER 28 - 29 JANARY 2005



on Standard III and IV

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Municipalities of Kosovo are committed to fulfill all duties and responsibilities from the implementation plan of Standards for Kosovo.
2. Municipal representatives reported on this two-day debate on the implementation level of Standards for Kosovo and noted that there is good progress in the implementation of those Standards for which Municipalities are responsible.
3. In order to meet the deadline for the implementation of Standards, Municipalities ask for the support and assistance of local and international Central Institutions of Kosovo.
4. Municipalities are committed to offer equal treatment and services for all citizens of Kosovo regardless of their ethnicity
5. Municipalities of Kosovo call for all communities, particularly Serbian community, to integrate in the Kosovo society, i.e. municipal institutions, since in some Municipalities they are affected by outside circles
6. Regarding the concrete fulfillment of Standards,

- Municipalities noticed in this meeting that municipal official documents are prepared in two languages.
7. Municipalities are willing to offer simultaneous translation and ask for financial assistance to provide the translation equipment
8. All personal documents are issued by the Municipality in the requesting party's language.
9. Use of official language in signs in and out of municipal institutions is being implemented. Still, Municipalities ask for financial support for establishing road, centers and neighborhood sign tables.
10. Local Economic Development determines the sustainability and efficiency of fulfillment of Standards to establish a safe environment for all citizens and is also a possible perspective for the future, particularly for employment.
11. Municipalities of Kosovo ask from Central Institutions, particularly from UNMIK, to dissolve parallel structures in order to help the quick integration of communities.
12. Municipalities ask for news on the fate of missing persons in order to achieve stability all over Kosovo. If this doesn't happen it will reflect nega-

- tively and directly to the fulfillment of relevant standards, like returns and reintegration and freedom of movement.
13. There are parallel institutions operating in Northern Mitrovica and a large number of Serbians from several Municipalities of Kosovo have been settled in the area. This situation has a negative impact on the overall security situation of Kosovo. Municipal leaders are committed and call for all citizens to return to their previous Municipalities and properties. In addition, Municipal leaders ask from local and international Central Institutions to review regulations and directives that hinder full integration and extension of competences all over Mitrovica territory.
14. Municipal leaders invite all persons displaced after March events to return to their houses that have been reconstructed with resources from Government of Kosovo budget.
15. During this meeting it was noticed that all Municipalities have nominated their Municipal Coordinator for Standards and their Returns Officer.

## Municipal Presidents confirm their commitment to the implementation of Standards

**Pristina, February 26, 2005**

The Prime Minister of Kosovo, Mr. Ramush Haradinaj, and the Minister of Local Government, Mr. Lutfi Haziri, organized a meeting with Municipal Presidents of Kosovo regarding the implementation of Standards set by the international community. The Prime Minister Haradinaj stated that "the purpose of this meeting is to verify the success achieved with the Standards and to continue working with a greater dynamic to implement these Standards". There will be financial burdens to realize several actions and there will be no additional budget for this, but Mr. Haradinaj proposed the Municipal Presidents to use the funds allocated for projects.

The Minister of Local Government, Mr. Lutfi Haziri, stated after the meeting that "Municipal Presidents are committed to implement the Standards, and this meeting found that there is progress and advance in



this area". Vice SRSG, Mr. Larin Rosin, participated in this meeting and stated that "it is very important that progress with Standards be achieved in central and local level. Many Standards can be implemented successfully in the local level". AMK Acting President, Mr. Ismet Beqiri, emphasized the serious efforts put into the implementation of Standards from every level and in this respect, the

Municipal Presidents confirmed their commitment to fulfill their duties and obligations that derive from the implementation of Standards for Kosovo.

The Government of Kosovo through a letter addressed to all citizens of Kosovo, regardless of ethnic background, called for respecting the law, to be considerate and tolerant. All citizens of Kosovo have a moral and civic obligation to understand the importance of the process we are going through as a country and as a society, and we should all help the central and local institutions with the implementation of Standards by cultivating a feeling of tolerance, understanding and mutual respect for one another. This letter addressed to the citizens of Kosovo was signed by the Prime Minister Haradinaj on behalf of the Government of Kosovo, the AMK Acting President, Mr. Ismet Beqiri and all the Municipal Presidents present in this meeting.

## Stability through realization of rights and tolerance

**AMK and CARE Int. have continued their meetings on "Stability through realization of rights and tolerance" with village and local community leaders.**

The meeting, held on February 2nd, 2005 in Hotel Palace in Mitrovica, was organized for village and local community leaders of Mitrovica and Peja regions. The purpose of this meeting was to assist communities in building their capacities in order to manage independently conflicts and enable constructive dialogue and interaction for a sustainable and successful ethnic integration. Several municipal community representatives of Mitrovica and Peja participated in this meeting together with the AMK Acting President, Mr. Ismet Beqiri, Municipal President of Mitrovica, Mr. Faruk Spahija, Municipal Vice President of Mitrovica, Mr. Mursel Ibrahim, Municipal Chief Executive, Mr. Mustafë Pllana, Municipal President of Gjakova, Mr. Aqif Shehu, Municipal President of Vushtrri, Mr. Muharrem Shabani, UNHCR Officer, etc.



**Sustainable returns and rights of communities and their members, the role of establishment of inter-ethnic dialogue in the community level**

### CONCLUSIONS

#### Standards

1. Standards are the road of Kosovo to Europe and in the best interest of all Kosovo people.

2. Practical work for fulfillment of standards is a fundamental issue.

#### Inter-ethnic relations: Facing and overcoming tensions

1. Communities should develop their capacity to manage independently conflicts.

2. There is a mutual willpower to improve the current situation

3. Exchange of good practices between different parts of Kosovo is important to improve the situation.

4. Inter-ethnic relations have improved and are still improving daily

5. Cultural and sport life and developments have a positive impact on inter-ethnic tolerance

6. There is willpower between Mitrovica citizens, particularly between Albanians in Northern Mitrovica to be tolerant and cooperative. This tolerance is showing its results. Closure of parallel institutions will give greater results for the integration of all people in the institutional life.

7. Employment (economic development) is one of the conditions or the main condition for inter-ethnic tolerance and understanding.

8. The media role is important in creating tolerance.

1. The RETURNS process implies the return of all communities, not just one.

2. Tolerance within a community is the basis for inter-ethnic tolerance.

3. Returns should be based on the willpower of each person.

4. It is important to have necessary conditions for returns so that a person wishing to return should take the final positive decision.

5. The returns problem is directly connected to economic development.

6. It is important to establish a Ministry of Communities and Returns

7. Most municipalities have nominated their Returns Officer and have drafted the Municipal Strategy for Sustainable Returns.

8. The role of the "host" community is necessary for the returns process.

9. The returns process implies necessary conditions for the return of all communities.

10. Cooperation in all processes between AMK, Ministries and the Office of the Prime Minister is a must.

11. The returns process can not have a deadline, but is important to initiate this process and achieve good results.

12. Closure of parallel structures is a condition to solve the problem with Northern Mitrovica.

## Presentation of the Law on Waters and Draft Law on Waste to municipal representatives

The Association of Kosovo Municipalities organized a debate on the Law on Waters and Draft Law on Waste with Municipal Presidents, Chief Executives and Directors of Departments related to public utilities.

A request from the 25.01.2005 meeting of the Commission of Public Utilities, where representatives of Department of Waters of MESP participated, was to organize open debates with MESP and Municipal representatives on the Law on Waters and Draft Law on Waste.

### Presentation of Law on Waters

The meeting was opened by AMK Acting President, Mr. Ismet Beqiri, and was headed by Municipal President of Shtime and at the same time Head of AMK Commission of Public Utilities, Mr. Fatmir Rashiti. The Law on Waters was presented by the Director of Department on Waters of MESP, Mr. Baton Begolli, with the assistance of Department on Waters of MESP officer, Mr. Avdi Gjonbalaj. The Draft Law on Waste was presented by the representative of the Department of Environment Protection of MESP, Mr. Ahmet Krasniqi, with the assistance of Mr. Enver Tahiri of the same department. Following presentation of this law by representatives of MESP there was an open debate from Municipal representatives.



This Law is very important to Municipalities even though it has been approved without prior consultation with Municipalities. Most probably the changes to this Law in accordance to municipal situations will be a little overdue. Participants pointed out that the issue of water property and management has not been defined by this Law (e.g. Municipality of Shtime has three water systems, one managed by the Regional Company of Prishtina, the other two have no management).

### Presentation of Draft Law on Waste

Following the presentation of the Draft Law on Waste by MESP representatives of Department of Environment Protection, Municipal representatives welcomed DEP initiative to include Municipalities in the initial phase of drafting this

law, in order to receive proposals and remarks from Municipalities and for this Law to be complete. Even though Ministry representatives requested that Municipal remarks be submitted in writing to the Ministry through AMK below are included some of their concerns/suggestions. According to Municipal representatives waste management should be divided in three groups: organic waste, special waste, and hazardous waste. They also raised the issue of not including in this Law radioactive waste, licensing of waste companies, high fines that hamper implementation of the law, prevention with mandatory fines, subsequent by-laws to define higher fines, involvement of police and inspectors in charging fines, and extension of competences of inspectors.

In order to improve relations between local and central level it is necessary to have such meetings. This meeting was greeted by the AMK Acting President, Mr. Ismet Beqiri, and by the Head of AMK Commission of Public Utilities, Mr. Fatmir Rashiti. They also asked that Municipalities be consulted for the upcoming laws as well, since Municipalities are directly dealing with the implementation of laws. Ministry representatives promised further cooperation.

## Involvement of Municipalities in drafting of laws is crucial as it affects the implementation of the law

AMK Acting President, Mr. Ismet Beqiri, stated in the meeting with Directors of Departments for Urbanism and Planning in Municipalities of Kosovo that "this meeting is organized with the request of AMK Commission of Spatial Planning and Public Places to discuss on the 18 month deadline for Municipalities to develop a spatial plan to present to the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning". Mr. Beqiri added that all Municipalities have similar problems regarding spatial planning and urban places and there is significant lack of professional staff in the central level. He informed the Directors that very soon Municipal Departments of Urbanism and Spatial Planning will be delivered "plotera" by AMK, which are donated by the Agency of European Reconstruction. The Director of Department of Planning and Urbanism in Prishtina, Mr. Lulzim Nixha, stated that "MESP has prepared a Law that does not correspond to the reality in Kosovo and this is because Municipalities have not been consulted on this matter".

The Municipality should be based on the development spatial plan for Kosovo for its municipal plans. They should have supportive extracts to develop their plans according to the strategic plan for Kosovo, which is not prepared yet by the Ministry".

After the discussions, the directors reached the following **conclusions**:

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Involvement of Municipalities in drafting of laws is crucial as it affects the implementation of the law
2. Lack of legal infrastructure (Law on Construction Land and Law on Expropriation) and secondary laws accompanying the Law on Spatial Planning impede the drafting of municipal spatial plans.
3. Lack of spatial plan for Kosovo is the main impediment to the drafting of municipal spatial plans.
4. Cooperation and coordination between Municipalities and the Institute for Spatial Planning (within MESP) should be in the required level
5. Municipalities are committed to find alternative sources to draft the municipal spatial plan
6. Extension of deadline for the Law on Spatial Planning that requests Municipalities to develop a municipal spatial plan within 18 months (this deadline is March 2005)
7. Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is asked to present the Extract of Spatial Planning for Kosovo. If this extract is not ready,



8. Municipalities will be generally informed on the layout of the Spatial Planning for Kosovo, for them to have a clear vision for the future
8. The Spatial Planning for Kosovo should consider different specifications of Municipalities (e.g. Municipality of Obiliq with its TEC and exploitation of property for coal)
9. Property managed by KTA is problematic for the drafting of municipal spatial planning
10. Professional trainings for "Drafting Projective Tasks" are needed
11. Municipalities should find ways to motivate officials (official employees in Department of Urbanism)
12. Allocation of the municipal budget for the Department of Urbanism (ranges from 2-10% in Municipalities). Municipal departments cannot be effective if they do not have a budget that allows them to work without impediments.
13. Different ways should be found in the case of rebalance for this department to profit funds.

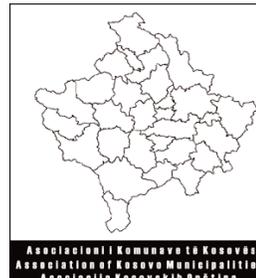
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Permanent Member