



*Présidence luxembourgeoise  
du Conseil de l'Union européenne*

Représentation Permanente du Luxembourg  
auprès de l'OSCE

Wallnerstrasse 2/1/2

Tél. : +43-1-478 21 68

Fax : +43-1-478 26 43

E-mail : [vienne.osce@mae.etat.lu](mailto:vienne.osce@mae.etat.lu)

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## **EU STATEMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENTS IN KOSOVO**

The European Union has learnt with dismay of the attack on the convoy of President Ibrahim Rugova which occurred in Pristina on March 15.

The EU strongly condemns this attack which comes at a sensitive time in the developments in Kosovo. As the Head of OMIK, Ambassador Fieschi, has pointed out, "violence has no role in a democratic society ... The people of Kosovo should look forward to a future in which violence is not used to convey a message and advance political aims."

The European Union commends the responsible and politically mature reaction of the population in Kosovo after the resignation and reporting to the ICTY of PM Haradinaj. It calls upon the population of Kosovo to maintain calm and refrain from any violent acts which might constitute a severe setback for possible discussions on the future of Kosovo.

It is now important to put in place a new government as soon as possible and to tackle, without delay, the important tasks lying ahead. We call upon the political leaders in Kosovo to work together to build on the good work done so far in order to achieve the common goals in the interest of Kosovo.

The Candidate Countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia<sup>1</sup> align themselves with this statement.

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<sup>1</sup>Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process