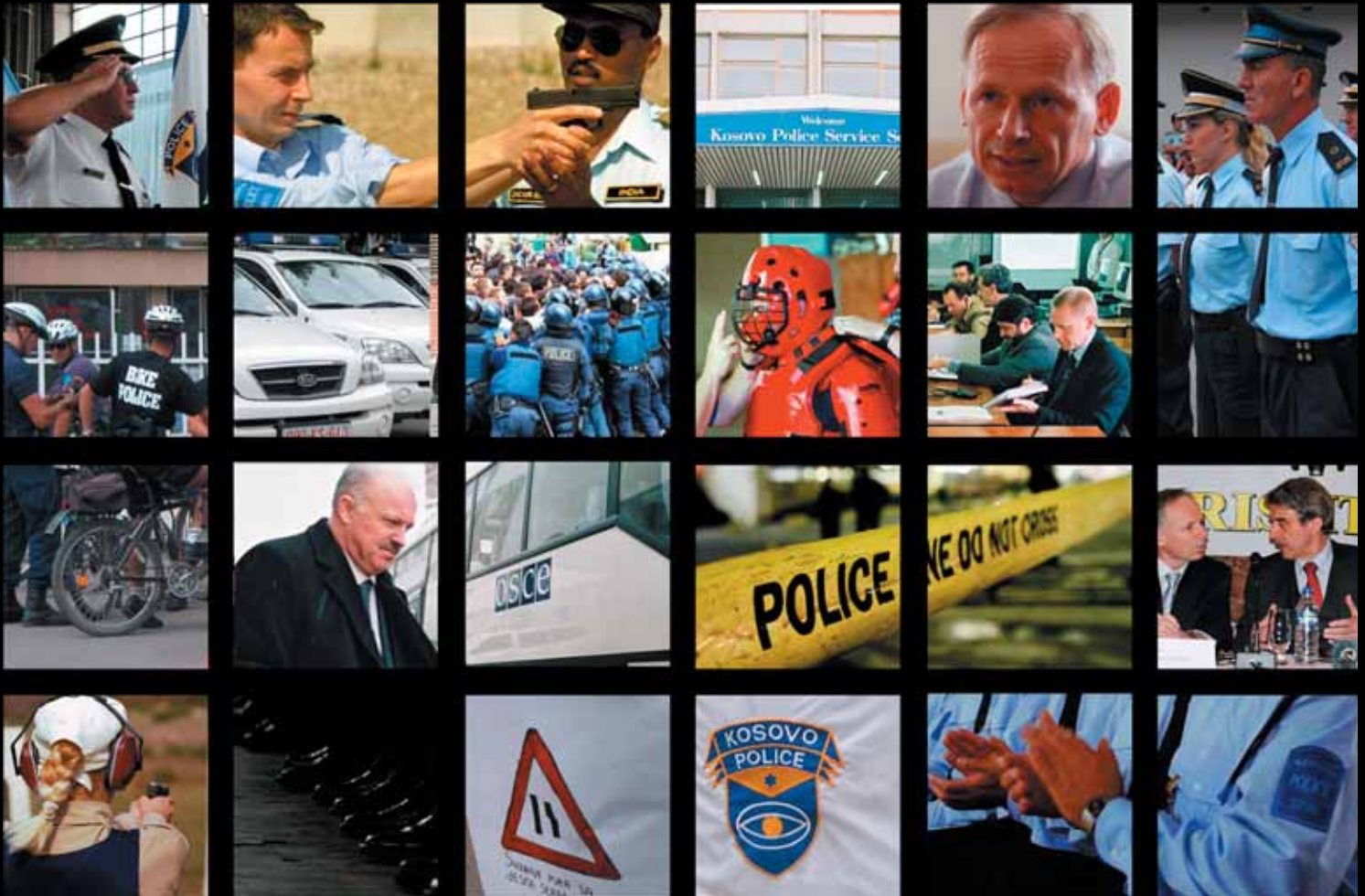




• ASSEMBLY SUPPORT INITIATIVE
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Parliamentary oversight of the Security Sector



Framing a sustainable Security architecture

Editorial



Six month ago, the PISG's first security organ in the executive branch the Ministry of Internal Affairs, was created, following a transfer of some of the competencies for the security sector from UNMIK. This provides not only new opportunities for the Government to show that it can handle the new competencies, but also new challenges

for the Assembly of Kosovo, among others, to actively engage and oversee its attempt to do so.

What are the competencies in the security sector, and what should the Assembly's relationship to them be? These are the questions that this special edition of the ASI Newsletter will try to address.

Since November last year, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo has been running the Professional Development Programme on Parliamentary Security Oversight, together with the Geneva-based foundation "Democratic Control of Armed Forces" (DCAF), and in cooperation with other ASI partners. The initial phases of the programme (including introduction to neighbouring countries' parliaments and review of the lessons learned from their experiences) are almost over, and the Assembly now has to decide how it would like to exercise its right of oversight.

In this special edition of the Newsletter, we have conducted interviews with three of the PISG's main players in relation to the police: the chairperson of the Committee on Emergency and Preparedness, Mr Naim Maloku, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Fatmir Rexhepi, and the highest ranking officer in KPS, the newly appointed Deputy Commissioner, Colonel Mr. Sheremet Ahmeti. Each gives his views on the progress and challenges Kosovo faces in this critical area.

Kosovo's future security architecture will be shaped by the Internal Security Sector Review (ISSR), a joint project of PISG and UNDP, with the assistance of OSCE and others, to survey the most crucial issues affecting Kosovo's security situation. As the ISSR involves both citizens and their representatives in the Assembly, we have included a short presentation of the process. To put this into a broader perspective, we have asked the OSCE's expert on parliamentary oversight in Sarajevo to describe the process of security reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is my hope that this special edition will contribute to the debate on the future of the security sector in Kosovo, and how the people's elected representatives will oversee it. As resources in Kosovo are scarce, its politicians now have to consider which kind of security sector architecture Kosovo can afford.

*Franklin De Vrieze,
Assembly Support Initiative Coordinator*

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"We still do not have a committee to carry out oversight of security mechanisms in Kosovo"

Interview with Naim Maloku, Chairperson of the Committee on Emergency and Preparedness

ASI: *What does it mean, 'parliamentary oversight'? Are there any Institutions that implement oversight and why is parliamentary oversight needed?*

Maloku: For the time being in Kosovo, we have not yet established any committee to carry out parliamentary oversight of security mechanisms. So far, security has been the responsibility of UNMIK, and only this year has it started transferring competencies to Kosovo institutions, to the Government of Kosovo. The establishment of the Ministry of Internal Affairs started the transfer of those powers, and by transferring these powers to the Government, gradually we have begun to create mechanisms even within the Kosovo Assembly to oversee security mechanisms in Kosovo. Parliamentary oversight of security is very important for a country, in order to ensure that security services do not exceed the competencies assigned to them by the law.

ASI: *How do you see the role of the Assembly in relation to the security forces? To what extent should the security forces be controlled by the Assembly: only by scrutinising funds or by influencing the staff selection process as well?*

Maloku: No, the Assembly won't interfere in the staff

selection process. Parliamentary oversight of security segments is done by overseeing the budget, how the budget is spent on the security sector, and of course oversight of the methods and techniques applied by the security bodies in their work.

ASI: *You mentioned the role of the Assembly. How do you see the role of political parties in overseeing the security sector?*

Maloku: Pursuant to Assembly Regulation, political parties that are represented in the Assembly of Kosovo may appoint members of the parliamentary commission through their respective parliamentary groups. Therefore, political parties may exercise oversight on security mechanisms through their members on the parliamentary commission.

ASI: *So have the parties consolidated their positions?*

Maloku: We are still just getting started. We still do not have a Committee that would oversee security segments in Kosovo. We are just attending trainings on the transfer of competencies. We have paid a visit to the Slovenian Parliament, and we are going to pay a visit to the Macedonian Parliament on June 5 and 6, where we will also pay a visit to the Ministry of Internal Affairs,



Naim Maloku

the Parliamentary Committee for Defence and the Security Police Academy as well as to a police station. We'll have a close look at how multiethnic police stations functions in Macedonia. We are sure to have opportunities to build similar institutions in Kosovo.

ASI: *How much time do you need to complete*

the establishment of the Committee?

Maloku: In July, we will complete the training plan of the Committee. Later, in the Parliamentary Committee, we will prepare a report for Presidency of the Assembly and for the Assembly itself, on all the visits and experiences we have had. We have visited the Police Academy in Vushtrri/

Vučitrn, and the Police Inspectorate. We will visit some other police stations in Kosovo. We have participated in the harmonization with the Police Regulation, pursuant to which the Ministry of Interior Affairs has been set up, or is being set up, and we have learned of the experiences of other parliaments. In the report, we will summarise our accomplishments in the training stage and we'll come up with a proposal for naming the Committee – let it be clear that we still do not know how this Committee will be called.

ASI: How would you compare the approaches to oversight

of security forces in various democratic countries and where do you see Kosovo in this spectrum?

Maloku: Let us take the example of the Parliamentary Committee for Oversight and Secret Services in Slovenia, which is led by the opposition. According to the law the structure of the parliamentary committee is such that the opposition has the majority of votes. In Macedonia, on the other hand, the Government leads this committee, and the same applies for Bosnia. We'll draw on the experiences and practices we saw in Slovenia: its Regulation on the Committee, its laws, the

structures and operations of its Secret Services, and the Rules of Procedure of its Parliamentary Committee. There is a lot of work to be done, since we have to propose a system for Kosovo to the Presidency and the Assembly. For the moment, Kosovo does not have any Secret Service that could be controlled by the Government or the Assembly or which would be under the control of the legal institutions. It is said that there are some secret services under the control of political parties. We'll have to identify an approach towards these services. Also, if anyone thinks that we'll get involved in the process of staff recruitment for the Interior Ministry, that's wrong. Our Parliamentary Committee does not have that competence, and nowhere in the world does the parliament have influence on the staff recruitment for the Ministry of Internal Affairs or the security services.

A number of countries use different approaches towards uniformed police, criminal police, intelligence services and military organizations. What do you think about special Regulations and separate divisions of security mechanisms?

Maloku: In each democratic country there are several forms of review. For each security organ, whether it has to do with police or secret service, there exists an internal review as well an external review mechanism within its respective ministry. On the other hand, for state intelligence and secret services there are usually internal

rules of procedure that define their own internal review procedures. Then there is secondary or external review, which means review from outside the service but still within the larger institutional framework of a government ministry. Kosovo's security sector will have both methods of control.

The Kosovo Police Service shall have an internal review that is regulated by its own Rules of Procedure. However, the KPS belongs to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIF) and the MIF will run the Police Inspectorate, which is an external control mechanism over the KPS. The Police Inspectorate is in the process of starting up; it shall be an independent agency, but it will function within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. While functioning as an independent agency an a mechanism to review the performance of the Kosovo Police Service, the Police Inspectorate shall give suggestions to the Minister for appropriate measures to be undertaken in this area.

ASI: What happens with other structures?

Maloku: If for instance Intelligence Secret Service in Kosovo is set up within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, then there would have to be a mechanism within the Ministry of Internal Affairs to carry out external, second-level review. Parliamentary review is the third-level review. NGOs belong to third-level review of security mechanisms, through their participation in the Parliamentary Commission. NGOs can report about cases of violation, overreaching



of competencies and citizens' complaints through various avenues, including independent publications and photos and interviews with the media. Through these means, civil society can exercise a sort of review.

ASI: *What other factors do you favour for overseeing security forces? What do you think about the role of Municipalities, or about internal and legal oversight?*

Maloku: Within the Government, a Security Secretariat will be established, as well as a Security Office. In the Security Secretariat, apart from the Prime Minister, there are the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Heads of Secret Services, and other mechanisms which will be established. Kosovo's government also has a special committee that appraises the security situation in Kosovo, called the Situation Assessment Committee. This Committee was established some months ago. Based on an assessment of the security situation, it assigns duties to KFOR, UNMIK, the police, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Government and other security actors. The Committee's members are SRSG Jessen-Petersen, the KFOR Commander, the Prime Minister, the Assembly President, the Minister of Internal Affairs and the KPC Commander. Other countries have a National Security Council, which is lead by a State President. We still do not have full competency for this segment. The Security Secretariat within Kosovo Government which I mentioned above is not

established yet, but it has been allocated a space, and it would be a form of National Security Council.

Where do you see the balance between oversight and effectiveness? Do you think that a security oversight mechanism would perform effectively?

Maloku: Oversight aims to prevent the excess concentration of power. Anyone who has unsupervised power can very easily abuse it. The police force, for instance has power. It is an armed force: is entitled to arrest someone, imprison or kill and state that it was a self-defence killing.

What are the priorities of the police forces and what can the Assembly do about improving the effectiveness of the security forces?

Maloku: We urgently need the police to fight economic crime, in order to remove allegations of corruption from the headlines, because this has become the most popular topic, even in cafés and bars.

Even people who have no idea about corruption have heard about it. This means that the Ministry of Internal Affairs has to launch a very effective fight against economic crime, organized crime and various forms of trafficking, taking effective preventive measures to catch or destroy possible criminal networks in Kosovo. We need an efficient Police Service that has an anti-narcotic unit, and an effective operation against economic crime and organized crime. Those are three elements that need to be reinforced in Kosovo

through effective mechanisms within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The Internal Security Review and other external studies say that Kosovo's judicial system still needs to catch up to the KPS in terms of quality and approval by the citizens of Kosovo. Do you think that overseeing the judicial system would work out, and what kind of improvements would you like to see?

Maloku: The judicial system is the ultimate one. Oversight of the security sector is one thing but oversight of the judicial system is another. Since the judicial system deals with cases that are handed over to them, they have to investigate and try those cases. But that is a lot of work, starting from the point when the case is initiated up to the trial proceedings. However, in order to have an effective judicial system, no pressure should be applied to it. The judicial system should be independent, free of any institutional pressure, and I don't think that applies for us in Kosovo, since the judicial system is still under UNMIK competencies. We have a lot of work to do to prevent outside pressure on the organs of the judicial system. I am very much convinced that the judicial system of Kosovo suffers from pressure from outside the institutional sector and measures should be taken against that.

Certain security mechanisms should be established within the KPS such as an intelligence service and the security service, which would protect the life of our judges

so they do not become victims of any pressure or threats. Concerning corruption within the judicial system, too much fuss has been made about two specific cases, one of a judge who accepted a bribe of EUR 1000 and another case concerning a cartload of wood. This might sound ridiculous when there are much worse cases.

The police and the Ministry of Interior should gain the confidence and trust of the citizens, and only then will they be successful. Nothing will be achieved if they can not gain citizens' trust and support. The citizen is the one who fights crime, not the police. The police can't be everywhere all the time. If a crime occurs and there are no citizens on the spot, and there are no witnesses, the perpetrator of the crime will never be found.

ASI: *What are your plans and what do you think will be the future challenges in years to come regarding parliamentary oversight?*

Maloku: We are trying to establish a Committee within the Kosovo Parliament with a Regulation that provides a specific name and scope of work. We will try to implement the experiences gained from the international community such as the OSCE and DCAF, as well as contacts we made in our visits to other parliaments and their respective committees. We will try to incorporate those experiences in our Committees Rules of Procedure and its scope of work. This will be a committee that will carry out its obligations the best it can.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs will cooperate with the Assembly of Kosovo to create sustainable security architecture

Interview with Mr. Fatmir Rexhepi, Minister of Internal Affairs

ASI: Of the challenges currently before you, which three are the most important for the functioning of the Ministry of Internal Affairs?

Rexhepi: I can say that in the beginning of its work, each ministry has its own difficulties. We are in the initial stages. Among the first duties or challenges, I would put the establishment of an appropriate work space and the recruitment of staff, both of the Ministry and its cabinet. Another important issue is the placement of the international staff, who are more than necessary for the provision of professional assistance. A third main issue is the establishment of new departments, the administration of which should be within the interior ministry. We are about to finish our third month of operation and we still can't move to new facilities, either the minister's cabinet or the administration (which is still hiring personnel), since we've had many senseless delays regarding the preparation of those facilities.

In addition, as a secondary issue I would mention the issue of my cabinet increasing its human and labour capacities – i.e. to complete the hiring of staff. We expect to have staff who are as professional as possible and who meet the requirements of their respective directorates and departments.

A third issue would be that of

meeting the standards. This capacity is very important for the Ministry and we hope to meet them as soon as possible. Regarding this, we have the prioritized draft of proposed laws that should be our focus this year. We have decided to focus on the Law on Police, the Law on Passports or Travel Documents, the Law on ID Cards and the Law on Names. Moreover, with the localisation of the leadership of the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) not yet fully completed, we will have the right to supervise the KPS. We'll create a close co-operation on the work plan to determine the tasks and responsibilities of the KPS, although it is still fully under command of the Police Commissioner.

ASI: What are your impressions of the development of the Ministry since you took your post?

Rexhepi: Looking at the real conditions and circumstances, both myself as a Minister and my staff worked closely on preparing a prudent and positive action plan for the second phase of transfer of responsibilities through the ministries. Regarding the accomplishment of the Ministry's tasks, within the conditions we have currently, the completion of the first part of staffing all departments, including the Permanent Secretary and the Police Inspectorate, is almost completed.

ASI: What are going to be the other pillars and functions of the MIA apart from supervision of the KPS?

Rexhepi: For the MIA the first organizational draft scheme has been designed, according which, other institutions that preceded ours will be brought under our umbrella, to the extent that we manage to achieve our process this year. These institutions will be not only supervised by the MIA, but also managed by it. Supervision may sound like something of a distant relationship, but I'm talking about management and guiding their strategy of work.

Let's say we have the Police Academy or the Academy for Development of Cadres in Vushtrri/Vučitrn. As I said, we have the establishment of the Police Inspectorate, plus nine departments, two of which we already took from the Ministry of Public Services and another seven that are being created within our Ministry. Along with these will come the KPS, which has had a nomenclature and an organized structure for many years now. Regarding an intelligence agency or something similar, I think that it is not a priority for the moment. Maybe some other time it will be organized and supervised or it will be formed according to the needs of and in co-operation with the Government. Then we would have an agency whose

provision of information will serve our work and the program of the Government and other institutions by preventing and fighting phenomena that harm our society.

ASI: How do you see your position between the Police and Assembly? What are your professional relationships with these two institutions?

Rexhepi: We have a co-operation that needs to continue, especially with parliamentary commissions that follow issues of order, security, security structures in Kosovo, and the work of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. I feel that co-operation should be deepened further in a special way for two issues: preparation of draft laws, and the establishment of a parliamentary debate or parliamentary recommendations to increase the public trust of the process, and to set up an architecture of security that would be appropriate during next phases for Kosovo.

ASI: KPS enjoys a good reputation in the region. What could you do in order to maintain this standard that the International Community has achieved?

Rexhepi: First, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to leading the Academy and to promoting education of all generations or cadres of these generations.



Minister Fatmir Rexhepi

I would give special thanks to Director Steve Bennet, who has successfully led the academy for seven years. I trust the Kosovo Police deeply and fully because they are committed to meeting their tasks with discipline, and sacrifice if necessary, with the aim of serving the citizens of the country they come from, to enable them to move freely, and earn their living in safety. The KPS has consistently proved that it is a service that loves its own country, a service that recognises its citizens, and that is seeking to take over responsibilities and

to show many positive results in fighting all the negative occurrences that can happen in a society. In addition, the KPS has proved that police communicate easier with citizens in their own language, especially when they know the surrounding village, neighbourhood, city and people. I do hope that there are going to be even bigger results during the transfer of responsibilities to the police authority at all levels. Normally, this requires good supervision, an even better stimulation and better logistics of work.

ASI: *Compared to other institutions, how big is the problem of corruption among the KPS, and how do you think we could overcome this problem?*

Rexhepi: There is no society in the world that does not suffer from corruption. I don't think it is right to make negative publicity now on how much corruption there is in this or that institution. I think it's something that could be present here, but I suppose it is of very small proportions. I hesitate to say this, since I have no proof about that. Nevertheless, even if there is a small incident, we should not make more of it than it is; rather we should work on prevention and undertake appropriate measures. I believe this is the least evident among the KPS. If we make a comparison with other institutions – I've heard it myself – people fully trust the Kosovo Protection Service. However, wherever this phenomenon exists, it should be exposed and fought vigorously. All of them: crime, corruption and other deviant elements.

ASI: *What is the state of the effort to establish competent authorities in the field of asylum and returnees within the Ministry?*

Rexhepi: There is a department that should deal in a special way, a directorate that deals with the issue of borders. However, since we still have not recruited its staff, we can not say that something practical has been done. However, it is in the staff organization table and as soon as we complete the staff in

this department, we are going to have people who will deal exclusively with necessary issues, raising complaints and requests to both the Ministry and the Assembly regarding things people are keen to know, such as their status here, as well as other issues they are preoccupied with.

ASI: *The promotion of civil servants in the administration and the police should be based on the qualifications of those persons. What is the situation in this area at your Ministry and how can you ensure that such a mechanism will be effective in the future?*

Rexhepi: I have a point-black attitude regarding the criteria and principles in selecting the right people for a job position or how to announce a job vacancy. There were cases when 2-3 vacancy announcements were published, without my knowledge, listing required qualifications as follows: secondary school, high school, university education. After I was informed, I cancelled the announcements, because it is an absurd thing nowadays to have a working place that requires both secondary school and university education. If the position requires university degree, it should be emphasized as such, and have people apply who meet such conditions. Hence, we are going to be very careful to prevent cases like that. I would rather have the working positions categorized according to their duties and following the standards of the experts – I'm not the one who makes job descriptions.

Impressions from visit to the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia

Husnija Bešković, Vice-deputy of the Chairperson of the Committee for Emergency Preparedness

From 15 to 17 May 2006, I participated in a delegation from the Kosovo Assembly Committee for Emergency Preparedness that paid an official visit to the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia. Our delegation had 7 members and was headed by Mr. Naim Maloku, the Committee Chairperson and a member of Kosovo Assembly Presidency. The visit was facilitated by the Department of Democratisation of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and Mr. Kim Vetting with his associates. This was the first in a series of visits that the Kosovo Parliamentary Committee for Emergency Preparedness intends to pay to fellow parliamentary committees in the region. Visits to the Parliaments of FYR Macedonia and BiH, for instance, have already been

planned for this year.

The aim of the visit to the Slovenian Parliament was to broaden the cooperation between the members of Kosovo's and Slovenia's Parliaments, in particular the sharing of experiences on consultations of the Security Committee, as well as on mechanisms of Assembly oversight of relevant ministries and offices.

Our delegation had a number of important meetings with senior officials from high Slovenian institutions. The delegation met with the Slovenian Assembly Committee for External Affairs, headed by the Chairperson Jozef Jerovsek, the State Secretary with the Ministry of Internal affairs, Zvonko Zinraj, and Karlo Erijavec from the Defence Ministry.

We also had important talks with representatives of the Slovenian Army and representatives of Intelligence and Security from the Ministry of Defence, the General Secretary of the Assembly Lovro Loncar, the President and members of the Committee for Intelligence and Security Control, as well as with Mr. Janez Žirovnik, the Deputy Director-General of the Slovenian Intelligence-Security Agency.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my personal impressions from the visit and the contents of these visits. In my opinion – and I am convinced that the other members of the delegation share it – the visit was very successful and useful for us Kosovo Parliamentarians and members of Committee for Emergency Preparedness.

Our first contact with our colleagues from the Slovenian Parliament made a deep impression on us and we were delighted with the warm and friendly way we were welcomed.

During the working visits with the high-level actors mentioned above, we received information which is very useful for our work and for the process Kosovo is currently going through now and throughout 2006.

Our hosts showed a great interest in the current situation in Kosovo, including the negotiation process, the security situation, the integration of minorities into Kosovo society, the functioning of Kosovo institutions, and prevailing socio-economic conditions.

We held transparent and exhaustive talks to discuss our experiences in working on the Security Committee, as well as to discuss the mechanisms for Parliamentary Oversight in the Slovenian Parliament. What was important for our delegation from Kosovo was finding that Parliamentary oversight, and the work of Parliamentary Committees more generally, are regulated by the laws of Slovenia and by the by-laws adopted by the Parliament.

Our interest, and consequently the questions we asked, focused on the organisation and functioning of Slovenia's Ministry of Interior, the police system and the Ministry of



Defence. We asked: Who has the right of oversight of these important institutions? What kind of powers do Parliamentary Committees have in the process of oversight?

The hosts cordially answered all our questions and explained how this matter is regulated by law and in what way it is being implemented. On this occasion we received plenty of written material, which will be very useful for us in our further work here in Kosovo.

Also as part of our programme, we visited the building of the Slovenian Parliament as well as the Hall where plenary sessions of the Assembly are held. The National Muster - Assembly Number in the Slovenian Parliament is 90 MPs.

In our delegation, we familiarised ourselves with the conditions and the manner of work of the Slovenian Parliament and saw that they maintain the highest European standards in their work.

I think that such visits are very useful for us Kosovo Parliament MPs and that sharing and gaining experiences, in particular from neighboring and nearby States is very useful for us. They contribute to the process of building a modern democratic society in Kosovo. Facilitating such encounters and visits is but one in a series of valuable projects which the OSCE mission in Kosovo runs to promote the development and the democratisation of Kosovo Society.

I consider this visit a success.

The Professional Development Programme on Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Services

Kim Vetting, OSCE Mission in Kosovo

When the Special Representative of Secretary General, Mr. Petersen promulgated UNMIK Regulation 2005/53 in December 2005, establishing the Ministry of Internal Affairs as the first security organ in the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) executive branch, the Assembly of Kosovo had already initiated their internal discussion on oversight of the security sector. Foreseeing these developments, in November the OSCE Mission in Kosovo launched the Professional Development Programme on Parliamentary Security Oversight, which seeks to prepare the Assembly of Kosovo to engage in Kosovo's developing security sector.

Supported by the Geneva-based foundation Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the OSCE programme primarily targets the Assembly's Committee on Emergency and Preparedness, although other interested Assembly members and caucus leaders are invited to participate as well. The programme seeks to promote cooperation on various projects and activities with representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office for Public Safety. The programme reaches out to all ethnic groups in the Assembly, including the Kosovo Serbs.

The first high-level roundtable in November 2005, at the Hotel

Grand, addressed general principles of parliamentary oversight of the police and security sector. The discussions highlighted the fact that in a democratic society, elected authorities have a legitimate monopoly over the use of force, and the police are therefore directly accountable to them. Similarly, the Assembly holds the Government accountable for the development and implementation of its security policy; and scrutinizes and authorizes the budget for the police and security sector. The police and judicial system, it was noted, must remain politically neutral, by definition.

On 1 March, the Assembly Committee visited the internal monitoring branch of the Kosovo Police Service: the newly established Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK), currently located in Kosovo Polje/Fushë Kosovë (see article elsewhere in this newsletter for more details on the PIK). The day before, the Assembly Members visited the Kosovo Police Service School, and received an update on the ongoing transformation of this school into the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, Education and Development (KAPSED).

In March 10th, Mr Fatmir Rexhepi was appointed to be the PISG's first Minister of Internal Affairs. Following this important step, the OSCE facilitated a day-long seminar

attended by the Committee, the Minister and his key staff, as well as representatives from the UNMIK Pillar for Police and Justice, to discuss the Ministry's legislative and budgetary basis.

For the last two months, the Assembly Committee has been liaising with counterpart committees from other countries in South East Europe in order to establish best practices in the sphere of parliamentary oversight. On 15 - 17 May, the Committee visited Ljubljana and on 5 - 6 June, the Committee visited Skopje. These two visits provided invaluable information on lessons learnt and best practices from the region. Further, through an European Agency for Reconstruction funded project in the Assembly, a French parliamentary expert in security will make his expertise available to the Assembly Committee. Through these bilateral contacts, and most importantly at the Regional Parliamentary Conference on Security Oversight that will take place in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica on 25 - 27 June, co-organised with DCAF, the Assembly of Kosovo will redefine the role of the functional committee that deals with security issues, and come out much better prepared for the challenging task of providing oversight of the PISG's evolving security structures in Kosovo.

"KPS obeys the law and implements it"

Interview with Colonel Sheremet Ahmeti, Deputy Commissioner of the Kosovo Police Service

ASI: *How do you see the role of the police as the main pillar of security system?*

Colonel Ahmeti: No doubt that the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) has a crucial role in establishing security in this country. The KPS is a relatively new service, but in the last six years, it has managed to create its own independence. It has over 7000 members, it is multiethnic, multi-gender, and it is in the final phase of its transition to local leadership. As such, Kosovar people and Kosovar institutions have supported and encouraged it. We keep on working to guarantee a safe environment for all the citizens of Kosovo and to fight crime. Of course, the international police have made a special contribution in this stage by providing support and trainings, and this has resulted in the final phase of the police transition. We are ready to serve the whole of Kosovo, divided in 8 regions: all the citizens, and all the local and international institutions.

ASI: *How do you see the relation between KPS and other similar Institutions, like KPC, KFOR or foreign Police Services?*

Colonel Ahmeti: We have a good relationship with all local institutions. In case of any emergency, we act on a joint basis with the KPC and the rest in carrying out our tasks and objectives. We have good co-operation first and foremost with UNMIK Police, since we are a part of it, as



Colonel Sheremet Ahmeti with PM Çeku and Head of AAK Parliamentary Group Gjylnaze Sylja

well as with neighbouring countries' police services. We have joint meetings with all our neighbours, apart from the Police Service of Serbia, i.e. with Albania, FYR Macedonia, and Montenegro. We think that we should have contacts, co-operation and co-ordination with Serbia as well. Hopefully, in the future we'll establish professional relations even with Serbia, as well as with other neighbours.

ASI: *The transition period is approaching its end, where the KPS will be receiving full competencies. How do you see the overall process, especially at the HQ, which previously was short of human resources?*

Colonel Ahmeti: The transfer of competencies has taken place at all police stations: 33 police stations in urban regions. We control 5 main

regions, apart from Mitrovica Region, where we expect that transfer of competencies will take place soon. Recently, the appointment of senior ranks took place. Apart from Commissioner Vittrup, all the other international officials now work in the capacity of advisers. I am the Deputy Commissioner of KPS, and I have 4 assistants for different fields: information, crime, operations, border police, and administration. Therefore, our transition is in its final phase, whereas regarding the issue of human resources, we now have sufficient human resources: staff who have been trained and have gained experience for 7 years. Of course, we could not create utterly functional mechanisms within such a short period of time. Surely we shall need additional trainings in the future, especially for various specializations. We are committed to the next

developments together with Commissioner Vittrup and the local institutions.

ASI: *What is the status of the unit for professional standards, the unit for the appointment of senior police officers, the disciplinary commission and the Police Inspectorate? Are these functioning? What is their performance, and are you satisfied with it?*

Colonel Ahmeti: I will focus only on the Professional Standards Unit, because the rest fall under the Ministry of Interior. This Unit is responsible for maintaining police standards. Of course, mistakes happen while performing police work, and those mistakes are sanctioned in order to prevent their repetition and to make staff aware of them. Disciplinary measures are taken towards

anybody who is proved to have made a mistake. There are no exceptions towards anybody, neither police officer, nor lieutenant, nor colonel. If evidence and arguments are provided, all cases are investigated and disciplinary measures are undertaken as necessary. If there is sufficient evidence, criminal proceedings may be initiated in the relevant institutions: the courts.

ASI: What is your impression about the selection process. Are they doing their job properly?

Colonel Ahmeti: Pursuant to UNMIK Regulation No. 2005 /54, it is anticipated that the Police Commissioner, myself, and the Minister of the Interior

suggest three candidates to Municipal Assembly. Assembly Presidents are given the opportunity to select the one who is most suitable and performs the best. This Regulation has been in force since December 2005. So far, we have very good relationships with Municipalities and we hope to maintain them.

ASI: Were there any cases when a court interfered in your final decision on measures undertaken towards an official?

Colonel Ahmeti: The courts have the right to amend any decision made by the Professional Standards Unit. We are obliged to respect any such amendments. It is

the right of a convicted police officer to appeal, and if the Court decides that there were irregularities, it sends the decision back to the Professional Standards Unit and we are obliged to stick to it.

ASI: How does the internal mechanism function regarding offences committed by KPS Officers?

Colonel Ahmeti: We are a public service, executors of the law, and of course we should be role models to others for obeying the law. The Professional Standards Unit carries out investigation into cases of violation of laws and procedures, and it undertakes measures toward all those who misbehave, in conformity

with UNMIK Regulation No. 2005/54.

ASI: For the time being, who carries out financial oversight, and who will carry it out in the future?

Colonel Ahmeti: Our budget depends on the Government, specifically from the Kosovo Consolidated Budget. So far, the management of our budget was carried out by internationals, and I believe that this competence will soon be transferred to a senior local official, specifically, to my administrative assistant. I think that it would be quite fair if we were assigned to manage the budget together with the Government and the Ministry of the Interior.



Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu, Colonel Sheremet Ahmeti and Police Commissioner Kai Vittrup.

Parliamentary oversight of the Security sector

Peter Vanhoutte, OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Young parliaments spend a considerable amount of their time on approving legislation, because it is necessary, and this is what parliaments are expected to do. Unfortunately, they tend to forget that even more important than drafting and approving legislation is to keep a critical eye on the well-being of the democracy and the people.

The Assembly of Kosovo recently realised that parliamentary oversight is indeed a core activity of an effective parliament. The introduction of a regular question time during plenary sessions is an important mechanism for exercising oversight. Outside the plenary, some committees spend most of their time

overseeing the government. A very specific case is the role of the Committee on Emergency Preparedness, competent for overseeing the police, security and safety structures. The establishment of the PISG's new Ministry of Internal Affairs a few months ago has led to some excellent opportunities for this Committee to get additional training in oversight methods, both in Kosovo and abroad. As a result of this training and thanks to a highly competent Chair, Mr. Naim Maloku, the members have become aware of how great a challenge the organisation of effective oversight is. Despite the difficulty, it is absolutely necessary to guarantee that the police and security structures

develop into real democratic structures.

Accountability

In a democratic society, the police service is accountable to the three branches of governance: the legislative (parliament or assembly), the executive (government) and the judiciary (courts). On the central and local level, the government exercises direct control of the police service by determining their budget, their operational guidelines and their priorities. The legislative branch exercises parliamentary oversight by drafting and approving legislation which defines and regulates the police services and their competencies and

by adopting the necessary budget. The police are directly accountable to the competent governmental minister and the minister in turn accountable to the parliament, whose members are accountable to their electorate. In our experience, it takes at least two to three years for new parliamentarians to learn to use basic oversight techniques such as questions, interpellations, motions, debates, hearings and visits, scrutinizing the budget and drafting and reviewing legislation.

Mutual understanding

The development of effective oversight of the security sector is a challenge, both for



parliaments and governments. Though they should play a different role, they are both responsible for the functioning of the security sector, and its ability to ensure a stable and secure society. To achieve this, a parliament must not only monitor the government and the police, but must also approve and support the proper implementation of a coherent security policy and relevant legislation. Such oversight should lead to an intensive dialogue and mutual understanding among the government, the security institutions and the assembly.

In any society that seeks to uphold the rule of law, parliamentary and governmental oversight of the police must be based on a series of principles. In a democratic society, state-like authorities usually have a legitimate monopoly of force. This means that outside the police, private citizens (including private security companies and paramilitary organisations) don't have the right to use violent weapons against fellow citizens. Citizens are to rely fully upon the police whenever they are seriously threatened and may not use or even possess any weapons, unless they have a special permit.

The use of force by the competent authorities should be closely monitored in order to avoid any deviations from government policy. The police are directly accountable to the government, through the relevant minister (usually the minister of the interior). The government is in turn held accountable by the parliament, which ensures the development of a police policy and reviews

if and how this policy is implemented and respected in the field. The collection and analysis of accurate statistical data are crucial to this task: the assembly should be able to scrutinize the police budget and expenditures, as well as data measuring the performance of the police.

No politics

As the ears and the eyes of the citizens, the MPs must at all times check that principles of good governance and the rule of law apply to the police. However, with the exception of investigative committees, civil servants (including police officers) must never be directly accountable to the parliament – police officers should never be requested to appear for a committee. However, police officers and civil servants can be summoned to appear before courts on an individual basis in the course of a criminal case.

The government and the assembly have to be aware that in a democracy, the police service must always remain politically neutral. Political appointments or promotions within the police service are not allowed. As it is extremely difficult to implement the notion of political neutrality in a correct way, some countries tend to arrange agreements among various important political parties to share at least the highest positions (e.g. the police Commissioner can belong to the main ruling coalition partner, his deputy to the main opposition party). In most cases, such solutions will result in a politically balanced management.

Additional oversight

Besides the regular parliamentary oversight, there will always be a need for additional external oversight structures. These include ombudsperson institutions, parliamentary committees for petitions and minority rights protection councils. These independent bodies can also investigate citizen's complaints. The judiciary is limited to a 'post factum' role and will mainly prosecute the wrongdoings of police officers through civil and criminal proceedings as necessary. At all times, a strict separation between the judiciary, the executive and the legislative branches should be respected.

Police policy

A comprehensive police policy is part of a global security policy that involves all the relevant stakeholders and aspects of security. The Internal Security Sector Reviews (ISSR) in Kosovo aims at developing such a policy. As far as the Assembly of Kosovo is concerned, the security-policy debate is part of a process and consists of four phases: development, decision-making, implementation and evaluation.

A parliament plays only a limited role in the development phase of a security and police policy. This task belongs primarily to the government. A parliament nevertheless can raise the public's concerns about security issues and request the government take these into account from the start. Of course, the committee on security and police should be informed by the government of the development of police

early in the planning stage, so that it can give useful input. The decision-making phase is the one where the parliament can play an important role, especially related to police and security policy documents and legislation. The assembly should in principle discuss and approve any new policy and related legislation, drafted by the government. In the phase of decision-making, the parliament can have a decisive voice through budgetary appropriation. Ideally, the parliament's involvement will lead to revisions of the proposed policy and result in a final document that can earn broad consent.

The competent committee should seek to monitor the implementation of the policy and to evaluate the real impact of the approved policy and take it into account while discussing next year's budget.

Getting public support

A parliament has the lead when it comes to increasing public support for the policy finally adopted. Transparency is of the utmost importance. Debates have to be public as much as possible. The public, especially representatives from civil society, should be encouraged to attend committee meetings and public hearings. In preparation of their committee meetings, MPs should take care that the concerns and views of both majority and minority communities are properly translated and discussed.

For the Assembly of Kosovo's Committee on Emergency Preparedness, the realisation of this objective will be the main challenge for the next months.

Doing it by the book: police and human rights in Kosovo

Dillon Case and Nikola Gaon, OSCE Mission in Kosovo

The Kosovo Police Service (KPS) is one of the youngest police forces in Europe. Established in 1999, its task is to maintain public safety and en-

force the law while ensuring respect for human rights. That, however, is easier said than done.

“One of the main challenges we face is making sure that actions taken by a relatively young police force are in line with the international hu-

man rights standards and procedural codes of conduct,” says Christopher Decker, Advisor on Human Rights and Security Issues at the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.

Many KPS officers are still working on developing their knowledge of procedural codes and international human rights standards. Sergeant Atrim Myrtas of Gjilan/Gnjilane police station has been with the force for six years as an investigator.

“You can never stop learning,” Atrim says. “Every day we continue to develop our knowledge and get better at doing our jobs.”

An information overload

Atrim’s international colleagues in the UN civilian police, who monitor the work of the KPS, say that the way it operates is highly professional. Nonetheless, violations of the Provisional Criminal Procedural Code and human rights, although not frequent, do still occur.

These violations mostly concern procedures applied during arrest, detention or investigation, the treatment of juveniles, freedom of assembly, or relations between police and the media.

“To do their job properly, police officers like Atrim need to memorize over 500 articles of the Criminal Procedure Code,



as well as all the international human rights provisions that relate to police conduct," says Christopher.

And while Atrim wants to conduct his duties "by the book", he says that the information overload makes this difficult.

The training that he and over 7,000 of his colleagues have received at the Kosovo Police Service School (KPSS) – run by the OSCE Mission – has prepared them well. Nonetheless, when they are out in the field doing their jobs, chances for procedural errors are great.

Pocket-size booklet

To further help the police in their work and reduce the possibility of misconduct, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo issued a pocket-size booklet in February called Human Rights and Law Enforcement: A Booklet of Human Rights for Police.

The booklet provides police officers with access to and guidance on the most important provisions of the Provisional Criminal Procedure Code and international human rights standards. Divided into 18 thematic chapters, it enables officers to search the laws and find information vital to protecting every individual's rights.

Prior to introducing the booklet, the Mission piloted a shorter version amongst domestic and international police officers in the area covered by Atrim's station – the Gjilan/Gnjilane region, some 40 km south-east of



Prishtinë/Pristina – which was very well received.

Atrim's well-thumbed copy testifies to how often it was consulted. "I always have the booklet with me and when in doubt I browse it for the answers," he says. He adds, however, that he finds it unprofessional to consult the booklet during procedures, so he takes any free moment to brush up on the guidelines.

Easily accessible source

By carrying a booklet that condenses a massive amount of information into a pocket-size guide, officers have an easily accessible source of information that enables them

to improve their knowledge of procedures.

Atrim says that as a recruit, he often wished such a resource was available. Fortunately, his newly-recruited colleagues will have that privilege.

Copies of the booklet in Albanian, Serbian and English were distributed to all police station and officers throughout Kosovo in March. There will also be a series of accompanying training sessions on human rights issues.

"The Mission expects the complementary nature of the booklets and the training sessions to improve the knowledge of all officers and to lower the number of criminal procedure violations," says Christopher Decker.

Real beneficiaries

The real beneficiaries, however, are the Kosovans themselves. A police force that is well-informed about human rights and procedural codes is better equipped to protect its population.

As the situation in Kosovo stabilises and international involvement with security matters is gradually reduced, officers like Atrim and his colleagues in the KPS are becoming a pillar of public safety.

The booklet and the accompanying training sessions for Kosovo's police are valuable tools the OSCE Mission and other international partners can use to support the process.

OSCE helps boost community policing in Kosovo

Nikola Gaon, OSCE Mission in Kosovo

The Kosovo Police Service (KPS) and the OSCE are working to build greater trust and co-operation between police and the public by providing a specialized training course in community policing. This calls for police officers to form close relations with communities, village leaders and local officials and work with them to resolve security concerns.

The role of a community police officer

More than 130 KPS police officers are assigned to community policing in Kosovo. Dealing with issues such as shoplifting, road safety for children, drug abuse prevention and inter-ethnic relations, officers need to be able to communicate effectively with people of different ages, ethnicities and backgrounds. They are also required to facilitate local meetings.

"We have contact with school teachers, young people, minorities, business owners, municipal representatives and people with special needs," says police officer Avni Zahiti, who works for the Mitrovicë/Mirovica Regional Police Headquarters. "Our job is to bring them all around one table and help them identify security issues and find solutions."

Developing new skills

Since 1999, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo has been helping to

develop a democratic police service. In 2000, new cadets began getting an introduction to the concept of community policing through the basic KPS training programme.

The introduction, however, was not enough. "Police officers lacked the specific skills they needed to do their jobs properly," says Lieutenant Salih Dragidella, Commander of the Community Policing Co-ordination unit at KPS headquarters in Prishtinë/Priština.

So in September 2005, the KPS and the OSCE Mission began developing an advanced training course to help officers work more effectively with their communities.

"The new course explains the community-policing philosophy and aims to build communication, problem-solving and planning skills," says Sergey Sidorov, a community policing instructor working with the OSCE-run Police Academy. With 40 hours of instruction, special attention is also given to working with children and young people.

"It is important for the police to build good relations with local community members while they are still young," adds Sidorov. "This way, we can help them avoid bad influences and turning to crime."

Zahiti, one of the 19 officers who completed the course in March 2006, says that implementing the community policing concept was hard at first, but the KPS is getting

better at it. "With this training, I feel better prepared to work with the various interest groups."

Putting theory into practice

Encouraged to develop a motto during the course, participants chose "Respect people and people will respect you!", demonstrating a strong understanding of what community policing demands.

Role-playing is one of the most important parts of the course. It encourages officers to consider the perspectives of all parties affected by a problem, and as a result, to find more effective solutions.

Zahiti agrees the course was useful: "It helped us test the theory of community policing in practice."

Participants also developed projects addressing issues such as Roma integration, traffic and river safety, and protection from stray dogs.

The projects, which were presented on the last day of the course, are now being put to good use in the officers' communities.

The bigger picture

Since the Police Academy was established by the OSCE in September 1999, it has been providing courses on a wide range of topics, including forensics, interview techniques, defence tactics, conflict intervention, the handling of refugees and the police code of conduct. So far, 7,573 officers have gone through the basic police training programme and 61,458 have attended a variety of specialized courses ranging from criminal investigations and forensics to riot control and negotiation techniques.

The advanced community policing course is being added to the group of specialized courses. Over time, all current and future officers assigned to these duties will be required to complete it.



Kosovo's Internal Security Sector Review

Michael Page, Security Sector Advisor, Internal Security Sector Review

One of the most innovative aspects of the Kosovo Internal Security Sector Review (ISSR) is its attempt to systematically reach out to grass roots communities as much as possible. This has involved a number of different methods, including municipal consultations, opinion polling, a telephone hotline, the internet and an "ISSR Bus" that provides a mobile interviewing mechanism that doubles as an advertisement. From the outset, the ISSR process has been a collaborative initiative between civil society, the PISG and the international community.

While security sector reviews are conducted across the world, they are often limited either in their scope or their methodologies. In Northern Ireland, for instance, an international commission led by a former British politician and future European Commissioner, Christopher Patten, only addressed the issue of policing. In Jamaica and Sierra Leone, on the other hand, more comprehensive security reviews have been carried out, but they were not as effective in reaching out to the general population.

When the Kosovo ISSR project was formulated by the UK government's Security Sector Development Advisory Team, the decision was made to build on the lessons from these processes. There are two vital parts to the ISSR process. Firstly, through creating a mixed team of Kosovar and international experts, it was ensured that local knowledge would match international expertise within

the ISSR Secretariat. On top of this, while the secretariat is institutionally part of the UNDP, it is located within the Prime Minister's Office of Public Safety. Similarly, the research has involved an unprecedented level of inter-agency cooperation, with the participation of the PISG, UNMIK, the OSCE, the UNDP, KFOR and two civil society organisations: the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED).

The ISSR process is divided into eight separate stages: the first two stages, already concluded, identified the internal and external threats and the strategic environment of Kosovo. These two stages were undertaken by DCAF and KIPRED, who established the primary threats which Kosovo faces from a holistic, ground-up perspective. They noted that security is not just men in uniforms and bullets – it is much more complex. In a society such as Kosovo's, which faces severe economic problems, job insecurity is one of the most important problems that the average person faces. This insecurity creates an environment where crime and political extremism could grow in the longer term. Similarly, because of the international security forces provided by KFOR and NATO, aggression at the moment the threat of external is extremely low compared to the vast majority of post-conflict countries. Therefore it would be impossible for the ISSR to



apply a normal 'off the peg' security analysis. Working together, DCAF and KIPRED provided a base line for the ISSR process to build on.

In stages 3, 4, and 5, the ISSR team have been conducting assessments of the different parts of the Kosovo security architecture (KPS, KPC, civil service, etc.) in preparation for a gap analysis that will identify the needs and priorities that the government of Kosovo will face in the period after the negotiations on Kosovo's final status have been completed. At the international level, the ISSR team is drawing on NATO standards and the Copenhagen Criteria for EU integration as benchmarks for their recommendations. However, the most important benchmarks for the team's work are the views of the people of Kosovo.

The process of outreach and consultation is ongoing and again reflects the commitments of many different agencies and Kosovo bodies. Through its municipal teams, the OSCE has conducted ISSR consultations in every municipality within Kosovo. The first series of these meetings, conducted in February and March of this year, were a vital part of the work in building public awareness of the ISSR process

as well as providing valuable insights into the views, aspirations and fears felt across Kosovo. The second series of OSCE-facilitated consultations has now started and will be held over the summer months.

In tandem with this, and in collaboration with both UNMIK's and the OSCE's public information departments, the ISSR team has conducted an extensive public outreach campaign. An ISSR bus is currently touring Kosovo recording, both on video and in writing, the views of the general population. There have also been a series of radio and TV debates which cover security-related issues, to inform the population of the issues that the ISSR team is addressing. There has also been an ongoing advertisement campaign featuring the tag line 'security have your say' across Kosovo. The campaign has involved both billboards and TV advertisements and is intended to encourage people to attend meetings, use the free telephone hot line, the internet site and the bus in order to provide input to the ISSR. All the information used will feed straight into the final ISSR Report, which will be submitted to the Government and Assembly of Kosovo towards the end of 2006.

Kosovo Police Service Journal

Since its establishment, the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) has faced substantial challenges both at the internal level (including training, organization, and creating legal bases for its activities) and at the external level (such as combating crime). A continuing challenge is increasing the number of police officers in the KPS, which is a prerequisite for the safety

and security of all citizens of Kosovo.

Nevertheless, the KPS is considered to be an example of good cooperation between local and international institutions. In order to provide an insight into this cooperation and the work of the KPS more generally, we present here some excerpts from various police stations' daily work during 21-27 May 2006.



21 May 2006

At around 01:53, A complained to KPS in Kamenica/Kamenicë that certain persons had stolen his cattle. The complainant had shot at the looters with a hunting rifle. The police patrol managed to find the stolen cattle, but the suspects escaped. The case was referred to Crime Investigation Unit.

The Kosovo Police Service in Pejë/Peć reported a robbery, where unidentified persons stole the following items from B's car: his mobile phone, his wallet, his personal documents and eight bank cards.

22 May 2006

On 21 May 2006, while sawing wood for his personal needs, witness C. found a human skull in a location called "Lugat e Ozdrimit", near Drini i Bardhë river in Pejë/Peć Municipality. The skull appeared to be from the 1998-1999 Kosovo war. On 22 May 2006, C. notified the KPS Station in Pejë/Peć. In order to secure the area, a police patrol from Vitimirica police substation was sent to the scene, as was the Regional Investigation Team. The case was referred to both the Regional Investigation Unit and the Missing Persons Unit in Prishtinë/Prishtina.

The KPS in Ferizaj/Uroševac reported that around 01:05 in Prelez i Jerlive village, in the Municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac, two females asked for help at the "Universal" company from the complainant D.. The two females pretended that their

car engine wouldn't start. Then one of the females started the car and they dragged the victim D. for approximately 50 metres, causing slight injuries. Two other unidentified vehicles participated in the assault. The case was referred to the KPS Investigation Unit.

At around 11:00 in Lipjan/Lipljan police station, E. reported that his UNMIK Travel Document had gone missing. According to him, this happened on 21 May 2006 in Lipjan/Lipljan.

23 May 2006

After a routine check the Kosovo Police Service in Rahovec/Orahovac seized a automatic rifle.

At 15:00 in "Bajram dhe Gursel Sulejmani" street in Ferizaj/Uroševac, the Narcotics Investigation Unit searched the suspect F., and found in his pocket 14 packs of 8 grams of narcotic substances (heroin) wrapped in paper. The substance was seized and the suspect was arrested and sent to a detention centre in Gjilan/Gnjilane.

The Kosovo Police Service patrol stopped and searched suspect G., who was driving vehicle Mercedes Benz 208 D-Kb. Police found tractor parts in the suspect's van. The van was seized by the Police and a certificate for seizure was issued. The case was referred to the KPS Investigation Unit.

24 May 2006

At around 17:37 in KPS Alpha Base in Pejë/Peć, a phone

call was received by H., who reported that in the village of Jablanicë e Leshanit, Municipality of Pejë/Peć, a warehouse carpentry was broken into and burglarized. KPS dispatched a patrol to the crime scene and learned that on the night of 23/24 May 2006, unidentified persons managed to get into the warehouse by sneaking through the roof and stole various equipment and machinery for manufacturing wood products. The value of the stolen equipment was about 10 thousand Euro. The case was referred to the KPS Investigation Unit.

25 May 2006

At around 21:40 a case of domestic violence was reported to the KPS station in Lipjan/

Lipljan. A police patrol was dispatched to the scene and confirmed that suspect I. had maltreated his spouse J. after a quarrel, which is believed to have taken place at around 10:30. After the quarrel, the suspect had allegedly sent his spouse to his parents saying that he wanted to divorce her. KPS dispatched a patrol to the scene and contacted the suspect's mother K., who gave an account of what happened. However, later on it was established that K. had herself been involved in the case by assaulting J. (the bride). The case was referred to the KPS Investigation Unit.

26 May 2006

At around 17:00, it was reported that in a sweet-shop in

“Dëshmorët e Kombit” street, Ferizaj/Uroševac Municipality, there was an attempt to pay with a counterfeit 20-Euro banknote. Several witnesses claimed the counterfeiter was L., who, they alleged, tried to do the same thing a couple of days ago. The case was put under investigation.

27 May 2006

At around 09:45 in Lloshkobare village, Municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac, some villagers came across an unexploded piece of ordnance while excavating the land. After reporting the case to KFOR, the KPS dispatched a patrol to the scene and immediately secured the area. KFOR units arrived and discovered that the ordnance was an artillery

shell of about 70 centimetres and 180 millimetres. They believed that the shell was there from Second World War. KFOR took the shell away.

At around 10:42, KFOR units informed KPS in city of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica that in “Drenica” street, during their search conducted in M's house a Rifle and forty-five bullets were found. The rifle was seized because its licence had expired. The case was completed and was sent to the court.

At 10:50, N. from village Guštericë e Ulët, Municipality of Lipjan/Lipljan, reported to KPS that during the night some unidentified persons stole his car type Golf. According to him his car had been parked in his courtyard.



Who will police the police?

The Role of the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK)

Police accountability is a vital component of any democratic government. The public needs to have confidence in the government's system of 'policing the police'. They must be able to scrutinise what the police do and how they do it. Only in this way will the public trust the police to, uphold the law, maintain peace and order and ensure that all citizens are able to live and work in a safe and secure environment.

Frank Harris, Project Manager of the OSCE Implementation Programme for the PIK

The Kosovo Police Service (KPS) is the youngest police organization in the Western Balkans, and in many respects, it is one of the region's best models of democratic policing. While it currently enjoys a high level of public support and confidence, the KPS is an organisation that is still developing and evolving. Until recently, the KPS did not have a formal mechanism in place to ensure public accountability. Now,

however, an independent civilian oversight body has been formed: the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK). The PIK is an "Executive Agency" in the PISG's newly-established Ministry of Internal Affairs and defined in UNMIK Regulation No. 2005/54. It will strive to assist the KPS in developing still further by formalizing public accountability.

The PIK will have two primary functions. First, it will inspect the performance of the KPS

in a range of management functions in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and compliance with applicable law. Second, the PIK will investigate complaints and allegations of serious misconduct against any KPS officers, regardless of rank.

Improving KPS Performance

How will the PIK help the KPS and inspire greater public

confidence in the KPS? It will undertake investigations and prepare reports on KPS performance in three critical areas: effectiveness, efficiency and compliance with the law. The PIK will scrutinise KPS effectiveness by questioning how well the KPS fulfills its mandate to combat crime, maintain public order and reduce injuries and deaths on the roads and other areas. The PIK will also look at KPS efficiency by questioning how the police use public funds and whether the KPS is achieving its objectives in the most cost-effective way. Finally, the PIK will look at KPS compliance with the law by analyzing how KPS officers do their job and whether they fully respect the rule of law while doing so.

How will the Police Inspectorate measure how well the KPS is performing? The Inspectorate will apply European policing standards – defined in the European Code of Police Ethics – in measuring the performance of KPS managers. This approach is consistent with the government's ambition of working toward European standards in all aspects of the administration.

The PIK's investigations will culminate in an Annual Report on KPS Performance. Foreseen as a public document,



Transfer of competencies from UNMIK Police to KPS, handover ceremony

the annual Report will be presented to the SRSG, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Assembly and the Police Commissioner. It will contain factual information about KPS performance, as well as objective conclusions and realistic recommendations for future change. Most importantly, this document will present a balanced appraisal of the KPS's performance, highlighting strengths and achievements, as well as areas of weakness that require further development.

A Complaints System that the Public Trust

The second function of the PIK – investigating complaints against the police – is equally important, particularly for ordinary members of the public. When individual officers fail to do their job or when they break the law, there must be an effective system to make them accountable to the public, especially those who suffer as a result of police misconduct. Such a system requires a robust and effective legal framework, as well as professional public officials who are responsible for dealing with complaints and who have the confidence of the public.

UNMIK Regulation No. 2005/54 and the related Administrative Direction on the PIK provide a sound legal framework for public complaints against the police. All complaints against police officers are initially sent to the PIK, reviewed and then dealt with according to the category of offence. The new legislation

divides potential allegations of police misconduct into three categories: minor discipline offences, serious discipline offences and criminal behaviour. As in the past, any allegation of criminal conduct will be immediately referred to the Public Prosecutor by the PIK. Minor offences will be referred to the Professional Standards Unit, under the authority of the KPS Commissioner, and allegations of serious misconduct will be investigated by PIK officers. In all cases, the PIK will track the progress of investigations and ensure that the complainant is kept informed.

If a PIK investigation finds that there is strong evidence supporting an allegation of serious misconduct, a case file will be prepared and forwarded to the Senior Police Appointments and Discipline Committee (SPADC). The SPADC will conduct disciplinary hearings, deciding whether officers are culpable and, where necessary, recommending penalties to the SRSG (eventually, this authority will be transferred to the PISG's Minister of Internal Affairs). When conducting a disciplinary hearing, the SPADC will consist of a small group of Permanent Secretaries and Municipal Assembly representatives, selected on a rotating basis.

Can the public trust the PIK? All PIK officers are civilians and totally independent of the KPS. They will work hard to ensure that every complaint of serious misconduct is thoroughly investigated, in compliance with the applicable law. Like other government

institutions, the PIK will be judged by the public on their performance and they may well be criticized by the public. Still, it is hoped that a civilian oversight mechanism will inspire greater public confidence than allowing one division of the police to investigate another.

The Challenge of Developing the PIK

As stated in UNMIK Regulation No. 2005/54 and the related Administrative Direction, the Chief Executive Officer of the Police Inspectorate has full executive authority for the PIK's functions and is accountable to the Minister of Internal Affairs. Following an agreement between Ambassador Wnendt, UNMIK and the Minister of Internal Affairs, the OSCE has agreed to take the lead in the PIK Implementation Project. The OSCE staff will be responsible for the design and implementation of both the institution-building and capacity-building phases, as well as monitoring PIK performance.

Preparing the PIK officers for their new functions represents a significant challenge. The functions of the PIK are unique within Kosovo's public institutions and the required capacity-building is very specialised. Work has commenced on the design of a two-stage capacity-building programme for the PIK staff. The first stage of the programme will last for 30 weeks and focus on how to conduct audit inspections on KPS management and how to

prepare the first Annual Report on KPS Performance. Much of the focus will be on 'work-based' training. Topics will include police inspection and data gathering skills, reporting skills, management and leadership skills, knowledge of the police-related areas of the applicable law, the theory and practice of police reform and organisational change.

It is hoped that training for PIK staff will start in June 2006. Much of the training material has now been finalised and is in the process of being translated. Since the PIK must produce its first Annual Report on KPS Performance in 2006, it will be essential for it to produce data and recommendations as a result of the ongoing training process in Phase One.

The second stage of the programme will last for 20 weeks and will focus on investigating complaints of misconduct. This part of the training programme will stress interviewing, gathering evidence, preparing case files, presenting evidence and understanding the relevant legislation. Once again the focus will be on 'work-based' training, allowing PIK officers to take responsibility for complaints investigations at the earliest opportunity.

In order to allow the capacity-building programme to commence at the earliest opportunity, the OSCE has agreed to provide a temporary training venue for PIK staff at the OSCE Logistics Base (off the Airport Road). The PIK staff will relocate to a permanent site once one has been acquired by the Ministry of the Interior.

Experiences of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in Developing Parliamentary Oversight of the BiH Security Sector

Christian Haupt, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Parliamentary oversight of the defence and security sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is a real challenge, but over the last three years there has been considerable improvement. Starting from scratch in 1995, parliamentary oversight in BiH is now a model for other countries in South East Europe. Still, parliamentary oversight continues to improve as parliamentarians and advisors from the international community deepen their knowledge of the issues and how to collaborate in their efforts to address them.

The OSCE Mission to BiH receives a mandate to promote regional stabilisation (as well as to promote human rights and oversee elections) from the “General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (GFAP),¹ signed on 14 December 1995 in Paris, after being negotiated in Dayton, Ohio, U.S.A. on 21 November, 1995. To fulfil this mandate, the OSCE established a Department of Regional Stabilisation (DRS), which is now called the Department of Security Cooperation (DSC). Initially, this department focused on supporting the implementation of the so-called Vienna-Agreement on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in BiH and the Florence-Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control. Since then, the implementation of both Agreements has imp-

proved considerably and a complete transfer of competencies from the entity level to the state level was completed on 1 January 2006, which has fundamentally changed the defence sector in BiH by the full transfer of competencies.

Since the Vienna-Agreement has been terminated and the Florence-Agreement amended, the DSC has widened its initial scope of activities. It now assists the implementation of OSCE politico-military dimension documents. Among these documents is the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Budapest 1994), which contains clear provisions for

parliamentary oversight of the Armed Forces.

Institutional Framework

Until 2003, the state-level government of BiH exercised little control over the security sector and there were no effective state-level military and police structures. As a consequence of the previous war, both entities within BiH² maintained a high level of institutional independence, including their own Ministries of Defence (responsible for armed forces) and Ministries of the Interior (responsible for police forces). The BiH Constitution created a Standing Committee on

Military Matters within the state-level BiH Presidency to co-ordinate the entities’ respective armed forces, but this committee did not play a decisive role.

Also until 2003, parliamentary oversight of armed security forces (military, police and intelligence) was limited to the entity parliaments. In the absence of a state-level Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior, nationalist elements in the BiH Parliamentary Assembly (BiH PA) were able to use formalist arguments to prevent the establishment of an oversight committee for security matters, thus reserving more power for the entity-level parliamentary



¹ The full text of the GFAP, including all 11 annexes, is available on the homepage of the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina: www.ohr.int

² Provisions of the GFAP, including the Constitution of BiH (Annex 4 of the GFAP), created two sub-state entities within BiH: the Federation of BiH (FBiH) and the Republika Srpska (RS).

oversight committees. There argument was: if security mechanisms are organized at the entity-level, their oversight mechanisms should be too.

However, in 2003 BiH had a break-through in establishing state-level democratic oversight of security structures. In May of that year, the High Representative (BiH's equivalent of Kosovo's Special Representative of the Secretary-General) established the Defence Reform Commission (DRC), which agreed the formation of a state-level BiH Ministry of Defence. After the DRC published a report in September 2003, the BiH Parliamentary Assembly established the Joint Committee for Defence and Security Policy and Monitoring of the Work of Defence and Security Structures on the BiH Level. The Joint Committee has twelve members (six from each House of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly) oversees the work of the BiH Ministry of Defence and the BiH Ministry of Security, the latter of which runs a State Border Service and a State Investigation and Protection Agency. The Joint Committee also oversees the National Interpol Office and the BiH Mine Action Centre. With this broad area of responsibility, the Joint Committee covers almost the entire security sector, except the BiH Intelligence Agency (OSA), which is subject to the oversight of another committee of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly.

Oversight of the defence sector has now been fully transferred to the state-level BiH parliamentary Joint Committee. However, despite the establishment of the

Joint Committee, entity-level parliamentary committees maintain significant competencies to oversee the police sector in both the FBiH and the RS.

Legislative framework for parliamentary oversight

The BiH Parliamentary Assembly and FBiH Ministers of Defence are obliged by the BiH Law on Defence and their respective parliamentary rules of procedure to report regularly to their respective Joint Committees on the ongoing transition process, or on any other issue on request. The powers of the oversight committee in the RS National Assembly (RSNA) are defined by a detailed Law on Parliamentary Oversight in the field of defence and security (RS Official Gazette No. 25/2005). Unfortunately, the RSNA committee has rarely made use of the robust tools and powers given it by the law. This indicates that the effectiveness of oversight committees is as dependent on the commitment of the parliamentarians as on the explicit provisions of the law.

Development of the OSCE Mission's Project on Parliamentary Oversight

The OSCE's first major initiative in the area of democratic, parliamentary oversight of the armed forces was the organisation of a seminar in January 1999 titled: "Democratic Control on Security Policy and Armed Forces". In 2000, the OSCE's DRS (now

the DSC, see above) launched a long-term support program for parliamentary oversight of the armed forces. In the initial stage, the DRS sought simply to foster mutual trust and confidence among senior representatives in the defence sector. One of its first initiatives in this area was to organise three informal meetings with the chairmen of the entity-level parliaments' defence and security committees.

The DRS has actively engaged with other partner organisations and other staff to build capacity in security sector oversight. Recognising the importance of technical and administrative support, DRS encouraged committee secretaries to participate in activities, and they made significant contributions to the success of the project. Also, to complement the DRS activities, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) has joined the OSCE Mission in running a pilot project to provide domestic experts to parliamentary defence and security committees. Since 2003, parliamentary experts have subsequently been employed by DCAF to work for the four existing defence and security committees. These advisors provide the needed expertise on defence and security matters and they have greatly enhanced the parliamentarians' ability to successfully participate in negotiations on defence reform.

Experiences and Challenges

Domestic and international representatives have frequ-

ently described the long-term promotion of parliamentary oversight by DSC (and DRS before it) as one of the most successful aspects of BiH security sector reform, particular in defence reform. Increased oversight has not only been able to hold the executive structures accountable, but also contributed to the implementation of legislation passed by the BiH Parliamentary Assembly.

Looking toward the future, there is some concern about the importance of maintaining adequate staff and the technical equipment required for the effective participation of parliamentarians in these committees. Without these resources, parliamentarians will not be able to exercise effective oversight, especially when confronted with the frequent opacity of BiH security and defence institutions.

Perhaps the most important lesson learned during the past seven years is the high value of parliamentarians' personal interest in and commitment to the issues. Without these traits, parliamentary oversight will not be effective. Similarly, the relationships that representatives of the international community cultivate with parliamentarians are important too. Expert advice and daily support to the committees must be provided in a respectful manner. Only with a mutually respectful and deeply committed combination of efforts can an atmosphere of partnership and mutual understanding develop. Such collaboration is crucial to developing effective parliamentary oversight in the countries of South East Europe.

The Parliamentary Staff Advisors Program for oversight committees

Marc Remillard, Program Manager, Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)



Established in October 2000, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) promotes good governance and security sector reform in the countries of South Eastern Europe. The Centre conducts research on good practices, encourages the development of appropriate norms at the national and international levels, makes policy recommendations and provides in-country advice and assistance programs. DCAF's partners include governments, parliaments, civil society, international organizations and a range of security sector actors such as police, judiciary, intelligence agencies, border security services and the military.

Shortly after DCAF began operations, it became apparent that if we were to offer comprehensive, results-oriented support to parliaments, we could not afford to focus only on supporting parliamentarians. In transition environments, parliamentarians often come and go in rapid succession, whereas professional parliamentary staff remain and become a

crucial in-house resource available to parliamentarians, some of whom may lack significant parliamentary experience. However, we found that parliamentary secretariats often lacked the training, resources and access to sensitive documents necessary to work on security and defence policy matters. In fact, information about these matters is restricted for anyone outside of the ministries of defence and government security councils, so even parliamentarians may have limited influence in these areas. DCAF has found that in single-party states, parliaments often merely rubber stamp legislation regarding security and defence.

Recognizing these challenges led to the development of one of DCAF's most successful and longest-lasting programs, the Parliamentary Staff Advisors Program (PSAP), which funds and trains Staff Advisors within parliamentary secretariats. The Advisors work as committee experts—essentially supplemental secretariat staff—for defence, public order or intelligence oversight committees. The program only offers staff advisors for one committee in each parliament. We launched PSAP in late 2002 with parliaments and Staff Advisors. Since then, PSAP has grown to a genuinely region-wide program involving 11 parliaments and 12

Staff Advisors. As of May 2006, the parliaments involved are in Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Romania and Serbia & Montenegro, in certain cases including state, republic and entity-level parliaments. We are delighted to note that the Assembly of Kosovo is expected to join the program by late June 2006 per an agreement reached in May 2006. The agreement calls for the Assembly to hire 2 DCAF-funded local Staff Advisors to directly support the crucial work of the Committee for Emergencies and Preparedness—a committee whose oversight responsibilities will include that of the internal security structures in Kosovo. Each of the Staff Advisors will represent one of the two largest ethnic communities in Kosovo.

In addition to offering funding for committee advisors, DCAF also offers an annual training program to participating parliaments. On four occasions, we have held week-long training visits to other national parliaments. In most cases, the training programs are designed in close cooperation with other national parliaments, who offer in-house training sessions and debates on topics relevant to security sector oversight and accountability. To date the Advisors have visited the Danish, Romanian, German,

British and US Parliaments, along with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and a number of other organizations. In all cases, participants are carefully introduced to the role of a parliament in overseeing the security sector, in addition to being introduced to a wide variety of international contacts, which are crucial to their future work of harmonizing national legislation with Euro-Atlantic standards and integration programs.

Ownership and effective oversight are the watchwords of the PSAP. Participating parliaments are encouraged to take ownership of the staff positions after two years of DCAF funding, although a third and final year of funding can be considered in cases of exceptional budgetary restrictions. However, experience has shown that before that deadline is reached, several of the involved parliaments have institutionalized the Staff Advisor positions and in effect made them a permanent part of the relevant oversight committee. In order to continue to meet the evident need for the training of more Staff Advisors, and to nurture the regional network developed among them, we continue to offer annual training to the nationalized Staff Advisors even when they are no longer funded by DCAF.

Regional Parliamentary Conference on Security Oversight

25-27 June 2006 - Mitrovicë/Mitrovica

“Towards the development of an effective parliamentary security oversight”



The Regional Parliamentary Conference on the development of an effective parliamentary security oversight took place in Mitrovica on 25-27 June. Around 40 Parliamentarians from the region with experience in Parliamentary oversight of the security sector participated in the event, jointly organised by DCAF, OSCE and the Assembly of Kosovo. Among the conclusions of the conference was a pledge for closer regional cooperation especially in relation to oversight of the private security companies.



Recent Developments in the Assembly

Franklin De Vrieze, OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Four European parliaments support Assembly of Kosovo

On 22 May, the EAR-funded Consortium of four European parliaments officially launched its support programme to the Assembly. The project will last for two years. The Consortium – composed of the parliaments of France, Germany, Belgium and Slovenia – will primarily focus on supporting the institution-building process, aiming at strengthening the Assembly Secretariat via training and capacity building. It will provide technical assistance to the Legal Department on the processing and drafting of legislation, as well as its standardization and harmonization. The project will also focus on the functioning of the Assembly Committees and the Presidency, and the Assembly's relationship to civil society.



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
DRŽAVNI ZBOR



Institut International
de Paris La Défense

Parliamentary Groups hold policy conferences

During June, each main parliamentary group will organize a policy conference on a topic of their choice, bringing together internal and external experts in order to develop policy recommendations for their respective parliamentary groups. On 6 June, the parliamentary group of the AAK organized the first conference, on agricultural policy, with key-note speeches given by representatives of local and international institutions and a number of farmers and bankers. On 12 June, the PDK Parliamentary Group organized a policy conference on privatization and energy. On 13 June, the LDK parliamentary group organized a lunch discussion on the Kosovo Youth Action Plan. The ORA Parliamentary Group organized a one-day policy conference on the Kosovo Youth Action Plan. Later during June, SLKM will organize a round table discussion on institutional protection of Kosovo Serb interests. The conferences are being prepared by student-interns of the University of Prishtina (or University of Mitrovica, for SLKM), as part of the OSCE's project with the parliamentary groups in the Assembly of Kosovo.

Reforming the work of the Assembly

On 1 June, the Assembly decided to improve its functioning, by adopting a comprehensive package of reforms proposed by the President of the Assembly, Mr. Kolë Berisha.

These reforms are intended to help the Assembly more effectively oversee the work of the government through formal mechanisms of parliamentary review. A regular question time of the government will be introduced and interpellations to ministers will be proposed and debated more often. The reform plan also foresees a calendar of fixed meetings for the rest of 2006, allowing for two or three plenary sessions per month and regular meetings among parliamentary group leaders and committee chairpersons.



For the first time, the Assembly of Kosovo will be extensively involved in the preparation of its own budget. The Assembly Budget Committee has started a series of consultations with the Heads of Parliamentary Groups and the Chairpersons of its Committees to identify priorities for next year's Assembly budget, taking into account the budgetary constraints. Finally, the Assembly reform plan also foresees a more efficient administration, improving public access to official documents, and formulating an Assembly management plan and a visitors program to the Assembly.

During the plenary session on 1 June, all parliamentary groups welcomed the reforms, expressing appreciation to the NGO the National Democratic Institute (NDI) for assistance in drafting the proposal and to the OSCE for the monitoring reports which highlighted the issues to be addressed.

Assembly Members prepare to question the Government

On 7 June, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) offered a workshop to opposition Members of the Assembly on how to prepare questions and interpellations for the Government. Mr. Rame Manaj, senior advisor to the President of the Assembly, emphasized the possibility of questioning the government on the newly adopted "Assembly Standards Plan". During the workshop, Mr. David Payne, a former parliamentarian from Canada, and Ms. Petra Blaess (OSCE), former parliamentarian from Germany, shared their experiences in questioning the government. Video fragments from question periods in the UK and Scottish parliaments were shown. In total, 13 Members of the Assembly attended: 7 PDK members, 2 ORA members, 2 For Integration members. This week, NDI will offer a similar workshop to officials of the Ministries on how to respond to questions and interpellations.

Assembly debates KCB 2005 final report

On 2 June, the Assembly debated the Kosovo Consolidated Budget (KCB) 2005 final report. The Minister of Economy and Finance, Mr. Haki Shatri, introduced the main findings of the report, followed by Mr. Naser Osmani, chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Budget and Finance. Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) criticised the government for a lack of transparency and a cover-up of budget manipulations and excessive expenditures, for example for phone bills, official trips, and purchase of vehicles. Mr. Alush Gashi (LDK) expressed his parliamentary group's support for the 2005 final KCB report. The report was endorsed with 52 votes in favour and 21 votes in opposition. In recent weeks, the Assembly has started internal consultations on preparations for its budget for 2007.

Assembly of Kosovo attends NATO Parliamentary Assembly

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly (PA) organized its spring session on 26 – 30 May in Paris. Upon the suggestion of OSCE, the President of the NATO PA invited a delegation of the Assembly of Kosovo to attend. The delegation consisted of Dr. Alush Gashi (LDK), Dr. Hajredin Kuqi (PDK), Mr. Oliver Ivanovic (SLKM) and an OSCE representative. This was the first time that Kosovo Assembly members were invited to attend a regular NATO PA session.

Ahead of the NATO Summit in Riga in November 2006, the NATO PA session discussed many political and security issues, such as the situations in Belarus, Ukraine, Iran, Irak, Afghanistan and Georgia, as well as relations with Russia. On 30 May, NATO Secretary-General Jaap De Hoop-Scheffer and all the ambassadors to the NATO Permanent Council joined the Parliamentary Assembly to discuss NATO's plans for the future, in preparation for the Riga summit.

One of the issues discussed during the Political Committee of the NATO PA was the status process for Kosovo. Ambassador Albert Rohan gave a comprehensive key-note address and elab-

orated on: the results of the five rounds of talks in Vienna, the timeline for the conclusion of status talks by end of 2006, Kosovo as not setting a precedent, the approach of Belgrade and Prishtinë/Priština in the talks, and the implementation of Kosovo's Standards plan.

The Kosovo Assembly delegation approved the idea of organizing one of the next NATO PA Rose Roth Seminars in Prishtinë/Priština. NATO PA officials welcomed the idea.





ASI Mission Statement

The Assembly Support Initiative (ASI) is the inter-agency coordination mechanism of democratization programmes in support of the Assembly of Kosovo, seeking to strengthen and professionalize the Assembly of Kosovo. The work of ASI focuses on a democratic political culture based upon acknowledge of and respect for democratic rules of procedure, transparency and accountability to the public, developing and implementing a legislative agenda, oversight over the Executive, respect for the multi-linguality and participation in regional and inter-parliamentary contacts.

ASI partners work to bring resources together, share information and coordinate programs while identifying needs in direct interaction with the Assembly. As coordinator of the ASI, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo liaises with all ASI partners and calls regular coordination meetings in consultation with Assembly representatives. A regular ASI Newsletter informs a broad domestic and international public on the developments in the Assembly of Kosovo as well as the ASI support programmes.

Currently participating in ASI:

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNSt.), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), East West Parliamentary Practice Project (EWPPP), European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) in cooperation with the Consortium of the parliaments of France, Germany, Belgium, Slovenia and the Institut International de Paris la Defense, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in co-operation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the Assembly of Kosovo



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The views expressed by the contributors to this Newsletter are their own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Assembly, OSCE Mission in Kosovo or the ASI partner organisations.

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