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MINISTRY FOR DIALOGUE

The Republic of Kosovo Government Program on the Brussels Dialogue

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1. BRUSSELS DIALOGUE ON PEACE, NEIGHBORHOOD AND EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo, within the framework of foreign policy priorities, will continue to be committed to the Brussels Dialogue on good neighborhood and normalization of interstate relations between the Republic of Kosovo and Republic of Serbia as two independent and sovereign states, with the facilitation of the European Union and the strong support of the United States.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo considers that the Brussels Dialogue is an international commitment in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo and its basic principles which among others stipulate that "the independent and sovereign state of Kosovo pledges to contribute to the stability of the region and the European continent, establishing good neighborly relations and cooperation with all neighboring states"

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo considers the engagement in the Brussels Dialogue contributes to improving the lives of citizens, strengthening Kosovo's state sovereignty and advancing the Euro-Atlantic vision of Kosovo for integration in the European Union, NATO, UN and other relevant international institutions.

The Government appreciates that engagement in the Brussels Dialogue proves our country's commitment to peace and stability in the region as well as contributes directly to meeting European standards for the integration of Kosovo into the European Union, given that good neighborly relations and regional co-operation are the main criteria for membership of the European Union.

The Government pledges to advance the goals of our state in this dialogue on a clear platform of objectives and principles on the defense of national interests, the defense of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, respect of the resolutions of the Kosovo Assembly and advancement of our intentions Strategic for Euro-Atlantic integration.

The Government will continue to pursue a serious and constructive approach to the Brussels Dialogue in accordance with its constitutional powers and responsibilities, in full cooperation with other state institutions in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo has accepted the international obligation to enter into the interstate dialogue between the Republic of Kosovo and Serbia with the mediation of the European Union, since 2011, pursuant to the UN General Assembly

Resolution A/RES/64/298 dated 9 September 2010 and in accordance with the constitutional powers of the Government to exercise state sovereignty in foreign policy of the country under Article 93, point 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo and with the support of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo through its resolutions.

1.1. Brussels Dialogue for the benefit of the state of Kosovo

The Government recognizes and appreciates the results achieved so far in the Brussels Dialogue that are in the benefit of the state of Kosovo. The Brussels Agreement on the normalization of relations between the two states of 19 April 2013, ratified by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo and, the Brussels Technical Dialogue Agreements (2011-2012) have contributed significantly to the strengthening of the state of Kosovo, both internally and internationally, helping to consolidate sovereignty throughout Kosovo as well as advancing Kosovo's path to European and Euro-Atlantic integrations.

The Brussels Dialogue, in the internal plan, has contributed to the consolidation of Kosovo's sovereignty in the northern part of the country through the dismantlement of Serbia's parallel structures in Kosovo in the areas where agreements and, integration of individuals of the Serb community (former staff of these structures) into the state institutions of Kosovo.

It also enabled the establishment of the interstate border between Kosovo and Serbia and the deployment of Kosovo's state authorities at the two border crossings in the northern part of the border border, which were violated by Serbia following the declaration of Kosovo's independence in 2008.

Internationally, the Brussels Dialogue has contributed to strengthening the Euro-Atlantic future of Kosovo, helping to advance Kosovo's membership in international and regional organizations, increasing the number of recognitions, improving the image of the state of Kosovo in the world, and consequently strengthening the evidence that Kosovo's independence is a factor for peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Equally important, the Brussels Dialogue has been directly contributing to the prospects of official entry of our state into European integration through the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) between the Republic of Kosovo and the European Union, most likely to be signed in the near future. This will mark as a historic step towards the European future of Kosovo. The Kosovo government has repeatedly asked the EU for Kosovo to be rewarded for its constructiveness in the Brussels dialogue by being granted the SAA with the EU and such a request is on the verge of realization.

The Government of Kosovo also highlights the EU's efforts to condition Serbia's path to European integration with the full normalization of relations with Kosovo by deploying Chapter 35 as an additional conditionality. With chapter 35, Serbia will be obliged to fully implement the Brussels agreements and to reach a legally binding international agreement with Kosovo. Such a conditioning on Serbia, most likely to be adopted in the near future, has come as a result of the hard work of the Kosovo Government which has managed to provide factual evidence of Serbia's failure to meet its obligations in implementing the reached agreements. To this end, the Government of Kosovo has submitted to the European Union regular reports on the state of play in implementation of the Brussels agreements.

The Government considers that thanks to this intensive peace process over four years, under the consistent facilitation by the European Union and full support by the United States of America, the relations between the two states, Kosovo and Serbia, with a hostile past are being transformed into a European model of cooperation. The government considers that the Brussels dialogue has laid the foundations for the normalization of neighborly relations between the two states and that this process should conclude with mutual recognition between the two states

1.2. Mutual recognition between two states brings lasting peace in region

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo considers that only mutual recognition between the two states, Kosovo and Serbia, with US and EU guarantees, will lead to sustainable peace and normalization of neighborly between two states as well to would ensure lasting peace and stability in the region. This would be a historic agreement to close the chapter of hostilities and open the peace chapter between the two states and even between the two nations, Albanians and Serbs.

The Government of Kosovo considers that mutual recognition between the two states should take place before their accession to the EU, a stand that should be supported by all EU member states in order to ensure lasting peace in region and Europe.

The Kosovo government considers that the Brussels dialogue is one of the European standards for good neighborliness that both states must fulfill in their journey to the European Union.

It is worth pointing out that the Brussels Dialogue has preceded the two previous peace processes that Kosovo has developed with the neighboring country of Serbia, with the mediation of the international community. The Rambouillet Peace Conference in 1999 ended the war in Kosovo and paved the way for the liberation of Kosovo, while Vienna's status talks paved the way for Kosovo's independence. Kosovo has emerged victorious from both peace processes, while Serbia failed with the non-signing of the agreements. The Brussels Dialogue should result in mutual recognition between the two states that will pave the way for a peaceful and European future of both states.

1.3. Brussels Agreements and benefits for Kosovo

The Technical Dialogue Agreements, a total of seven, are the first agreements ever reached and signed in the history between the two states, under the EU facilitation and US participation at the negotiating table. These agreements have laid the basis for inter-state reciprocal cooperation between the two countries in relevant areas. The Technical Dialogue Agreements include following areas: mutual recognition of state documents and free movement (Freedom of Movement Agreement); recognition of the interstate border and establishment of border cooperation (Integrated Border Management Agreement / IBM Agreement and Technical Protocol); free trade and mutual recognition of customs stamps (Agreement on mutual recognition of customs stamps); mutual recognition of university diplomas (Diploma Agreement); the Agreement for the full return of the Kosovo civil registry books taken forcefully by Serbia during the war in Kosovo (original documents scanned and certified by the EU) that has already been fully implemented and the Agreement for the return of the Kosovo Cadastral Documents taken forcefully by Serbia in war times; the agreement on removing obstacles for the state of Kosovo in obtaining membership and equal participation in regional organizations (Regional Representation Cooperation Agreement), which allowed for Kosovo to become a member-state in all relevant regional organizations. In addition, the Technical Dialogue has resulted in draft agreements on telecommunications and energy issues that have been finalized during the dialogue for normalization.

The Brussels Agreement on the Normalization of Relations between the two states, signed by the prime ministers of both states and the EU high representative on 19 April 2013 in Brussels, with the EU's facilitation, is internationally regarded as a historic agreement because it lays down the foundations of good neighborly relations between the two states according to European principles. This agreement has defined international obligations in very important aspects such as: legal functioning and

integration in the areas of security, justice, legal functioning of municipalities and, consequently, of an integration process of Serb citizens of northern part in state institutions of Kosovo, dissolution of illegal Serbian structures, law enforcement in customs duties collection and other important solutions. Internationally, this agreement has sanctioned the pledge of both states to not stand in the way of each other in their paths towards European integration. In order to ensure confidence building and integration of members of the Serbian community in the Kosovo's state institutions, the Government has established a Development Fund for northern municipalities and initiated the Law on Amnesty adopted by the Kosovo Parliament.

It is important to note that in all areas where the Brussels agreements have been reached, Serbia has recognized the independence of Kosovo, because the agreements are based on the separate jurisdictions of each state and have been in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Kosovo.

1.4. The process of implementing the agreements

In general, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo considers that there has been good progress in the process of implementing the Brussels agreements over the past period. Progress in the implementing process varies for the various areas covered by the agreements. Good progress has been made on issues of legal and democratic functioning of the four northern municipalities, security issues for the police part, IBM, freedom of movement of people and goods, civil registry books which is completed, customs revenue collection, Development Fund, Energy agreement implementation, international and regional representation and cooperation.

However, more substantial progress is needed to finalize implementation process in the following areas: on justice, where the implementation plan has already been agreed; on security, regarding the so-called "Serbian Civil Protection Structure" where no progress has been made; on telecommunications namely the country code for Kosovo which shall be 383, where the implementation agreement has not yet been signed; on vehicle insurance issue, where the agreement on mutual recognition of vehicle insurance cards is expected to be signed soon; the implementation plan of the agreement on Association of Serb majority municipalities in Kosovo; the implementation of the agreement on removal of the barricade from the Iber Bridge and other remaining barricades by the EU. Meanwhile, agreements on mutual recognition of university diplomas and cadastral documents are pending implementation.

More specifically, the latest state of play in implementation of the Brussels agreements is presented in the last report of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo for the

period January - September 2014 submitted to the EU on 10 October 2014. While, generally, the process of implementing the agreements, since the beginning of the Brussels Dialogue on 8 March 2011 until the time of the drafting of this program, is reflected in the periodical reports of the Government of Kosovo submitted to the European Union, which are published on the official website of the OPM.

The Government, being aware that much work remains to be done in the future, will be strongly committed to the full and effective implementation of the Brussels Agreement on Normalization and Arrangements arising from the Technical Dialogue and for reaching new agreements in the areas of Interest for the country according to the principles of reciprocity in bilateral co-operation between the two states.

The Government strongly believes that the key to the success of the Brussels Dialogue is the full and effective implementation of all agreements, which Kosovo has demonstrated by consistently fulfilling its implementing obligations. The Government estimates that Serbia's lack of political will for good neighborly relations and European relations with the state of Kosovo has been the main factor for non-implementation, delays and sometimes violations of agreements by Serbia, for which the Government of Kosovo has consistently sought stronger engagement of the European Union as a facilitator and guarantor of this process.

1.5. The main objective for the coming period - mutual recognition between the two states

In the next period, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo will focus its efforts on several levels of this process, such as: full and effective implementation of agreements pending implementation, sorting out remaining issues and reaching new agreements.

Regarding implementation of the agreements, the Government will request stronger commitment from the European Union in this regard.

Regarding remaining issues, the Government will give priority to justice, security/dismantlement of illegal structure so called "civil protection", telecommunication/telephone code 383, energy, association, etc.

Concerning the topics for the Brussels Dialogue concluding phase, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo has formulated its position and has made it known to the European Union that the Brussels dialogue should be concluded with the mutual recognition between the two states in accordance with international law. This position is stated in the Document on the topics of the next phase, which the Government of the Republic of Kosovo has submitted to the European Union in March 2014. This

document, based on the principles of international law on good neighborliness and cooperation between two countries that have had a war between themselves, includes all issues of interest to our country such as: mutual recognition between the two states, war reparation issues including the missing people and of women victims of war rape, the return of pensions and bank deposits, the return of artifacts and archives, and all compensation of war damages, the issue of succession respectively the separation of assets between the two states inherited from former Yugoslavia and the demarcation of the border between Kosovo and Serbia.

The Kosovo Government considers that the Brussels Dialogue is one of the European standards for good neighborly relations that both states must fulfill in their journey to the European Union. ber states in order to ensure a sustainable peace and stability in the region and Europe.

1.6. The role of the international factor guarantees success

The Government will remain committed to the Brussels Dialogue and implementation of the agreements, while it emphasizes that the role of the international factor guarantees success

The Government requires for a stronger commitment from the European Union to compel Serbia to fulfill its implementing obligations regarding the current agreements and the future ones.

The Government will continue to cooperate closely with strategic partners, the US and the EU and its member states, in particular with Germany and, all other supporting countries for a successful conclusion of this peace process relevant to the international and regional peace and security.

2. DIALOGUE AND DIPLOMACY FOR INTERNATIONAL EMPOWERMENT OF KOSOVO

Considering that the international community attaches great importance to the Brussels Dialogue as a process serving peace and security in the region, and having in mind that this dialogue is increasingly seen as a positive model for resolving open issues among the countries of the region and beyond, the constructive role of Kosovo in this internationally valued process is a precious asset, a strong argument that the Government of Kosovo will continue to use in diplomacy in favor of strengthening the international subjectivity of the state of Kosovo.

In the diplomatic plan, the Government will continue to lobby in the bilateral and multilateral levels by emphasizing Kosovo's constructive role in the Brussels Dialogue while demanding that Kosovo's constructiveness be rewarded with more clarity on the European future of Kosovo and acceleration of European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Kosovo. As a target of lobbying will be especially the five EU member states that have not yet recognized Kosovo, for them to recognize the state of Kosovo as soon as possible in the interest of peace and stability in the region. Diplomacy in support of the dialogue will serve not only for the success of the dialogue itself, but also to increase the number of recognitions and membership of Kosovo in international and regional organizations including, EU, NATO, UN.

3. STRATEGY OF DIALOGUE

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo will pursue a negotiation strategy based on the 2011 National Strategy Paper for the Brussels Dialogue, which has taken into consideration relevant theories and advanced international negotiation practices, as well as defines potential areas for finding solutions while respecting strictly the red lines of dialogue implying full respect of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Kosovo, the inviolability of sovereignty and territorial integrity and internal regulation of the state of Kosovo, and respecting the Ahtisaari Plan on the issue of minorities.

4. BASIC PRINCIPLES AND NON-NEGOTIABLE PRINCIPLES OF DIALOGUE

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo in the Brussels Dialogue, as it has been so far, will respect basic principles and non-negotiable principles, as follows:

4.1. Basic principles

1. The Brussels Dialogue will only cover issues of mutual interest between the two countries, without in any case affecting the sovereignty of the state of Kosovo, independence, territorial integrity and internal constitutional order of Kosovo
2. All agreements reached and ones to be reached have been and will be in full compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo and the laws of the country

3. Respect for international law and Euro-Atlantic standards for good neighborliness between states that have had a history of war caused by Serbia's aggression in Kosovo
4. Mutual recognition between the two states
5. Mutual respect of state sovereignty and territorial integrity between the two states
6. Non-interference with one another's sovereignty and complete dismantling of all remaining parallel / illegal Serbian structures in Kosovo
7. Respecting the interstate border between the two states
8. Establishing inter-state cooperation in areas of mutual interest according to European and Euro-Atlantic standards
9. Settling of War Reparations and Succession issues under international law
10. Mutual respect of minority rights in both states

4.2. Non-negotiable principles / red lines

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo will in no way violate non-negotiable principles because they are considered red lines that must not be violated, such as:

1. Kosovo's status is resolved. Kosovo is an independent and sovereign state with inviolable territorial integrity and a modern and internationally-recognized Constitution. The International Court of Justice confirmed the legality of Kosovo's Declaration of Independence on July 22, 2010. The state of Kosovo is recognized by the most powerful part of the international community, by 75 states, including the U.S., most of the EU member states, the states in the region and wider. Kosovo is a member of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and the process of recognitions is gaining in momentum.
2. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Kosovo is inviolable, inalienable and indivisible and is defended by the means sanctioned by the Constitution and law.
3. The internal order of the country is a sovereign competence of state institutions regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo.
4. The Ahtisaari Plan is the platform for the regulation of rights and guarantees for communities and the same is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of

Kosovo. The Ahtisaari Plan offers special competencies for the Serb community and as such it even goes beyond what is offered to minorities under international law.

5. THE SCOPE OF THE BRUSSELS DIALOGUE

The scope of the Brussels Dialogue includes the commitments of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo for an international peace talks aimed at establishing the neighborly relations between the two states, the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia, with the mediation of the European Union and the strong support of the United States.

Over the past period, the agreements reached have produced very important results for Kosovo in terms of consolidating state sovereignty in the northern part of the country, dismantling Serb parallel structures, ending the meddling of Serbia, increasing the integration of members of the Serbian community in the state institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, establishing inter-state cooperation on reciprocity principles between the two states, and advancing Kosovo's European integration to which the Brussels Dialogue's contribution was directly relevant, particularly to the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement between Kosovo and the EU.

In the coming period, the Brussels Dialogue on neighborly relations will enter the closing phase and the position of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is that this dialogue should end with mutual recognition between the two states, in view of the peace and stability in the region and the European integration of both countries given that good neighborliness is one of the main criteria for European integration of aspirant countries. This concluding phase will address the issues of mutual recognition between the two states, border demarcation, the issues related to the war reparations caused from Serbia's aggressive and genocidal war against Kosovo such as war reparations and, issues of succession.

The dialogue process has been the responsibility and was carried out by the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for foreign affairs and national security, Dr. Edita Tahiri, the Head of Delegation and Chief negotiator of the Republic of Kosovo in the Brussels Dialogue.

In this government term, the Head of the delegation and the Chief Negotiator Edita Tahiri will lead this process in the post of Minister in charge of dialogue.

The Chief Negotiator and Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Kosovo in the Brussels Dialogue has exercised the responsibilities and duties of the Head of the process, which includes the negotiation of agreements in Brussels, the preparation of platforms and the strategy for negotiations, for the dialogue in general and for the topics discussed specifically.

The activity of the Chief Negotiator has been developed in close cooperation with the Prime Minister, Government and ministries depending on the issues addressed in the Brussels Dialogue. The work of the Chief Negotiator has been supported by the dialogue team which consists of members of its cabinet, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Office for Strategic Planning of the OPM, as well as experts from the ministries and the public agencies that were appointed by ministers and heads of agencies.

The Republic of Kosovo Government Platform for the Technical Dialogue of 2011 defines competences, organizational structure and decision making process in the dialogue. It also provides for consultations and reports to the President and regular reporting to the Assembly of Kosovo. Likewise, it defines the relations with the opposition and civil society based on the principle of comprehensive involvement, as well as the engagement of international experts. This structure has worked well enough, which can be seen by considerable results of the dialogue in favor of our state.

In the period of technical dialogue, 2011-2012, the dialogue in Brussels has been conducted at the level of the chief negotiators of both states, Kosovo and Serbia, with the mediation of the European Union and the United States.

In the period of dialogue on normalization of relations, 2012-2014, the Brussels dialogue was raised at the level of the Prime Ministers of both states, Kosovo and Serbia with the mediation of the European Union and supporting role of the US. The Prime Minister Hashim Thaci led the delegation of the Republic of Kosovo, part of which was also the Deputy Prime Minister and Chief Negotiator Edita Tahiri. In this period, the framework agreement known as the Agreement on normalizations of relations of 19 April 2017 and the Implementation plan, involving a number of specific issues, were negotiated and reached between prime ministers. The agreements on specific issues deriving from it were negotiated and reached in the level of the chief negotiators of both states.

Dialogue is a highly sensitive and dynamic process that involves a large number of variables (issues, sub-issues, etc.) within the fields discussed, which creates difficulties in transferring the entire process to new actors, even more so because the negotiations

are accompanied by confidentiality, which is a key factor to its success. Thus, while the number of agreements reached has reached number 20, along with implementation plans (which are also negotiated and agreed agreements) and agreements on sub-issues deriving from agreements or implementation plans, the total number of agreements reaches over 50. In fact this process can be seen metaphorically as a pyramid where the top of the pyramid consists of the framework agreements, while it widens downwards with implementation agreements and then agreements on sub-issues deriving from the initial agreements.

In other words, establishment of interstate cooperation with Serbia according to European standards and dissolution of the Serbian parallel structures operating illegally in Kosovo since 1999, in the conditions of mutual non-recognition, causes obstacles of various political nature, and the solution for each of them must be found to make the deal work. It should be noted that during the implementation process there are violations of various forms by Serbia, which require additional work to remove the problems. Further, the violations made by Serbia must be reported to the European Union, given that Serbia's integration in the EU is conditioned with the implementation of agreements, through the Chapter 35.

If the question arises as how it has been possible to cope with all these duties and responsibilities, I can say with full responsibility that all officials who have been involved in this process have shown high performance, full state commitment, and have worked overtime. However, such dynamics cannot be handled longer, hence, better conditions are required, both in terms of increasing the number of staff and of overtime payments provided for by the laws of the country.

6. FOUR PILLARS OF NEGOTIATION PROCESS

The scope of the dialogue has four main pillars, such as: 1. Negotiation of agreements, 2. Implementation and monitoring, 3. Legality of the process, 4. Linking the dialogue with the European agenda of Kosovo

1. Negotiation

- Preparing the Agenda of priority issues of the Government in the Brussels Dialogue
- Negotiating with the EU to include the Kosovo priority issues in the Brussels Dialogue Agenda
- Preparing the platform and strategy for the Brussels Dialogue in general and for specific issues in particular

- Negotiating and reaching agreements between two states under the EU facilitation

2. Implementation and Monitoring

- Negotiation of implementation agreements / plans for the implementation of reached agreements, including preparation of the platform and strategy for negotiation of the implementation and negotiation process in the Brussels Dialogue
- Implementation of agreements and plans for implementation in fulfillment of the implementing obligations of our party, in cooperation with government departments and competent public agencies
- Monitoring the implementation of the agreements, which includes tracking of the implementation situation, the violation of the agreement and the deadlines foreseen in the implementation plan by the Serbian side, the quality of implementation and
- Reporting in Brussels for these violations in order to avoid them, demanding that the EU take measures to force Serbia to implement the agreements

3. Legality of the process

- The negotiation process and the agreements reached must be in accordance with the Constitution and Laws of Kosovo, which is accomplished through the process of legal advice and verification

4. Liaison with the European Agenda of Kosovo

- Regular reporting to the EU on the state of implementation of the agreements, periodically and on a daily basis, according to the dynamics of the violations of the agreements and implementation plans, to inform and seek the EU's commitment to solving these problems
- Linking advances in European integration for Kosovo by highlighting Kosovo's party performance in dialogue and requesting the EU to evaluate and translate it into a reward for advancing our country in European integration.
- Progress Report on the Dialogue to be Really Incorporated in the EU Progress Report on Kosovo
- Follow up the negotiation process for Serbia's membership in the framework of its conditionality with the Brussels Dialogue and in particular chapter 35, alerting the EU of the violations of the Agreements

7. CAPACITY BUILDING

In order to successfully cope with the growing agenda and the complex challenges of this dialogue, the existing ones and the others that are to come will require the capacity of the dialogue mechanism / team to increase. This capacity expansion implies the consolidation of the Ministry of Dialogue, in terms of creating administrative staff in support of the work of the Minister for Dialogue, which has only its own political cabinet.

The government should be committed to increasing the institutional capacity in this sector for these reasons: For the fact that the Brussels Dialogue is one of the main conditions for the European integration of the two countries, taking into account its progressive agenda, both on the issues dealt with and the others expected to be on the agenda, because of the duration and continuity that is expected to be of long paths perhaps up to the membership of both countries in the European Union. Hence, it is imperative and of interest to have a sound structure, by establishing an administrative part alongside the existing political part, which could operate as a ministry for dialogue.

The consolidation of the Ministry for Dialogue advances the institutional goals for better functioning, continuity, institutional memory and the use of expertise gained, which for the upcoming period may avoid the consequences of political / governmental changes that have created the loss of dialogue staff.

In addition to the Ministry of Dialogue, an Inter-Ministerial Committee should be established for the functioning of the four northern municipalities in accordance with the Kosovo Law. As a result of the Brussels dialogue, these municipalities participated in the local elections of 2013 and entered into a process of legal and democratic functioning with the constitution of the municipal legal bodies and the adoption of the statutes in conformity with the laws of Kosovo. The Inter-Ministerial Commission would be a mechanism for full consolidation of legal functioning of these municipalities and their full integration into the state system of Kosovo.

8. BUDGET FOR DIALOGUE

The budget for the dialogue in the previous period was covered by the OPM and there was no separate budget except for 2011. While support from the OPM and the PM himself was complete, this budget covered only trips to Brussels for political and civil staff of the OPM, while Ministries and Agencies have taken over the funding of their respective staff. In the process, deficiencies and constraints have been noted in this model of budgeting, as the ministries and agencies from time to time could not

participate in the talks due to the lack of budget for which there was no budget line. In addition, other shortcomings were linked to the non-compensation of additional work, since before and during Brussels talks work is done overtime, including the preparation of platforms and strategies for negotiation, while negotiating process in Brussels takes place until late nights in most cases.

9. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Theory and practice on negotiations suggests that for the negotiations to be successful, it requires respect for a certain degree of confidentiality in this process. Confidentiality relates to the sensitivity of this process which in turn prevents complete transparency. In the previous period, we tried to find a balance of public communication between the demands of citizens, media, public opinion and civil society, on the one hand, and the respect of the principle of confidentiality, on the other hand. Communication with the public has been carried out in various forms, such as cooperation with the media and researchers' community, publication of agreements on the OPM's Official website, interviews and press conferences after each round and after each agreement, participation in roundtables and conferences at local and international levels, etc. In the next stage, I think that transparency should increase but with caution, not because the public should not be entirely informed, but because negotiating an agreement is a process that changes and advances, whereas only the final results/the reached agreements are valid for the public. Increased transparency can be achieved by continuing the tradition of cooperation and further enriching it, such as by opening a website for dialogue, issuing publications for the technical and normalization stages of dialogue, publishing guide brochures for citizens to make better use of the services the agreements offer to them, etc.

Regarding accountability, regular reporting to the Assembly of Kosovo should continue on the basis of the principles set out in the Assembly Resolutions. This obligation can be further extended to meetings with citizens in cooperation with municipal assemblies and other forms of communication.



Edita Tahiri
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