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COUNCIL

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Activities of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council

February 2020



1. Activities of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council



Response of Prosecutorial Council to Threats against Prosecutor Rasim Maloku

Pristina, 3 February 2020 - Kosovo Prosecutorial Council strongly condemns threat to the Prosecutor of Serious Crimes Department of Basic Prosecution in Ferizaj, Rasim Maloku, and his family.

These serious threats to Prosecutor Maloku and his family come as a result of litigation against the former mayor of Kacanik, Jabir Zharku.

The Prosecutorial Council stands strongly in support of Prosecutor Rasim Maloku and offers full support for his work in exercising his function in prosecuting perpetrators.

The KPC assures the public that threats to prosecutors will not detract from its continued intentions and efforts to strengthen the rule of law, whereas it requires the competent authorities to deal with this case with due seriousness and urgency.



Work continues on the preparation of the draft Regulation on the Performance Evaluation of Prosecutors

Pristina, 3 February 2020 - The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council has established a Working Group to draft a Regulation on the Performance Evaluation of Prosecutors in order to further the process of performance evaluation of prosecutors.

The working group held its next meeting, in which it worked on the finalization of the draft of the aforementioned regulation, which will be forwarded to the Committee on Normative Affairs for drafting.

Continuous contribution to the drafting of the Regulation through active participation in the working group meetings was also given by the Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni.

It is worth noting that the adoption of this regulation will affect the advancement of processes and procedures for evaluating the performance of prosecutors



The Committee for Administration of Prosecutions discusses Work Plan for 2020

Pristina, February 4, 2020 - The Committee for the Administration of Prosecutions of Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, led by its chairwoman, Prosecutor Radica Milic, held its first meeting in 2020.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the implementation of the Work Plan for 2020, prioritize the activities to be implemented in February, as well as other issues of prosecution administration.

The members of the Committee during this meeting also discussed the evaluation of the work processes in the prosecution administration, the analysis of the number of prosecutors needed, the consolidation and implementation of the work through CMIS, and the drafting of the Annual Work Report of the committee for 2019.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee decided to continue carrying out visits to the prosecution offices in order to inspect the registers, evaluate the state of old cases, evaluate the supplies, as well as the state of facilities in the prosecution offices.



The review of the KPC Budget Request is being reviewed

Pristina, 5 February 2020 - The Committee on Budget, Finance and Personnel of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, led by its Chairperson, Prosecutor Deshire Jusaj, held its next meeting, in which, in addition to its members, attended the General Director of KPCS, Lavdim Krasniqi and heads of relevant units of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council Secretariat.

The purpose of this meeting was to review the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council Budget Request for 2020 and the early budget estimates for 2021-2022.

Concerning the review of the KPC Budget Request, following discussions held at this meeting, it was decided to make reconciliations within the economic categories and capital projects, without exceeding the budgetary limit approved by the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council.



The meeting of KPC administration leaders and administrators of prosecution offices is held

Pristina, 5 February 2020 - Implementation of advanced planning of the quarterly needs of KPC prosecution offices and organizational units, asset management and data exchange between the prosecution and the Kosovo Police, were the focus of today's meeting of General Director of the Secretariat of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Lavdim Krasniqi, Director of the Prosecution Performance Review Unit, Valon Jupa, KPC administration officials and prosecution administrators.

Other topics were discussed in this context, such as statistical reporting, the level of quality of reported data, their harmonization and integration with manual ones, as well as enhancing the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the work process, including implementation of Case Management Information System (CMIS).

The General Director of the KPCS, Lavdim Krasniqi, has asked administrators for each prosecution office to draft a draft by the end of this month regarding service needs and to respect procedures for enforcing the level of facility security, especially within the prosecution offices of the country.

At the end of this meeting were presented also the data on the realization of the project for archives, the conclusion of evaluations of the work of the employees and the implementation of translation in the prosecutorial system of Kosovo.



Chairman Hyseni met with Minister Haxhiu

Pristina, 10 February 2020 - The Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC), Bahri Hyseni, met with the Minister of Justice, Albulena Haxhiu, who after congratulating her on her new position, informed her on the current affairs, priorities and the challenges of the Kosovo prosecutorial system.

Chairman Hyseni said that the KPC is continuously working to create better policies and conditions for a more efficient prosecutorial system in investigating and prosecuting perpetrators, while emphasizing the priorities of the prosecutorial system of Kosovo, which is the fight against organized crime and corruption.

On the other hand, Minister Haxhiu said that she will support all processes that the prosecutorial system has in order to jointly advance the rule of law in Kosovo.

During this meeting was also discussed about the budget of the Kosovo prosecutorial system. In this regard, Minister Haxhiu expressed readiness to provide assistance in the budget requests of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council.

At the end of the meeting, both interlocutors expressed their readiness for greater work in order to increase the efficiency of work and transparency in the Kosovo prosecutorial system.



Visits to the Prosecution offices are planned

Pristina, 12 February 2020 - Chairperson of the Prosecution Administration Committee, Radica Milic, held a meeting with General Director of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council Secretariat, Lavdim Krasniqi and Director of the Prosecution Performance Review Unit, Valon Jupa.

At this meeting, which was of a planning and organizational nature, Chairperson Milic, together with Directors Krasniqi and Jupa, discussed planning visits to prosecution offices in order to better coordinate statistics work.

Also at the meeting was discussed the process of work done for the transfer of the Basic Prosecution Office in Gjakova to the new facility, which provides better working conditions.



Work continues on the development and functionalization of the prosecutorial system web portal

Pristina, February 13, 2020 - The working group for the development of the website of the Kosovo Prosecutorial System held the next meeting, where the work on the finalization of this website continued.

The meeting was also attended by the Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni, the Chief State Prosecutor, Alexander Lumezi, and the General Director of the KPC Secretariat, Lavdim Krasniqi, where the working group was briefed for the implemented works so far in the development and functionalization of the prosecutorial system web portal.

At this meeting were also presented the innovations that the web portal will bring, these innovations, which are expected to influence the increase of transparency and easier access of the citizens.

The website of the prosecutorial system will bring significant facilitation of communication activity, elimination of duplication of information, empowerment of information and facilitation of their passage to the public.



Meeting of the Working Group on Institutional Development of the Prosecutorial System is held

Pristina, 13 February 2020 - Representatives of Kosovo Prosecutorial Council hold meetings with British representatives of the Project "Strengthening the Judicial System in Kosovo" within the Working Group on Institutional Development of the Prosecutorial System.

During this meeting, which was attended by the Chairperson of the Prosecution Administration Committee, Radica Milic, Director General of the KPC Secretariat, Lavdim Krasniqi, Director of the Prosecution Performance Review Unit, Valon Jupa, discussed the Plan of the Working Group activities for 2020.

Consequently, during the meeting, the Working Group has planned further commitment to developing a more functional plan that will influence the advancement of KPC and OCSP performance.



Reaction of the Prosecutorial Council to repeated threats against prosecutor Rasim Maloku

Pristina, 19 February 2020 - Kosovo Prosecutorial Council strongly condemns continuing threat, including today's threat to the Prosecutor of Serious Crimes Department of Basic Prosecution in Ferizaj, Rasim Maloku, and his family.

These ongoing threats to the prosecutor are completely unacceptable and are intended to install fear in prosecutors and their families, and to make them feel insecure in exercising their constitutional and legal functions.

Kosovo Prosecutorial Council assures public opinion that no threat will repeal state prosecutors from working for the rule of law and order, so we urge the security authorities to treat this case more seriously and all those who stand behind these threats bring them to justice.



Chairman Hyseni: special guide for the punitive policy of corruption offenses will affect the work of prosecutors

Pristina, February 19, 2020 - In an effort to rule of law in Kosovo was held a roundtable discussion on guidelines for punitive politics of corruption offenses, this table, which is organized by the Consultative Commission on Punitive Policy, attended by the President of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni, the President of the Kosovo Judicial Council, Skender Çoçaj, the President of the Supreme Court, Enver Peci, the Prosecutor in the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor, Agron Qalaj, representatives of the US Embassy in Pristina, British experts and other representatives of institutions.

During the discussions, the Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni, in his speech to the case, said that this guideline will affect the work of prosecutors, which will lead to a fair and professional implementation of punitive policy, alleviating the circumstances for the pronouncement of merit judgments by the domestic courts. *"In this regard, the Prosecutorial Council will make concrete steps for its implementation and will provide full support for the organization of training for prosecutors, in order to have future results."* said the chairman Hyseni.

Consequently, there were other interactive discussions by the participants of the roundtable on issues and problems related to punitive policy, as well as professional recommendations for further steps, as this guideline represents a specific starting point for the application of mitigating and aggravating circumstances for offenders over the age of 18 and for legal entities.



Chairman of Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni, hosted in the meeting the new head of EULEX, Lars - Gunnar Wigemark

Pristina, 20 February 2020 - Highly expressed readiness to cooperate in joint processes between the Prosecutorial Council and EULEX to strengthen the rule of law in Kosovo and on issues related to the importance of monitoring, advising and addressing challenges and efforts that are currently underway for the prosecutorial system were the focus of discussions at the first meeting of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council Chairman, Bahri Hyseni, with the new EULEX chief, Lars - Gunnar Wigemark, after taking office by the latter.

In this context, congratulating him on his new assignment and expressing his willingness to cooperate within their mutual powers, the Chairman of the Prosecutorial Council, Hyseni, has informed the Head of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo, Wigemark, on the latest developments related to the implementation of strategic priorities and increasing the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the prosecutorial system.

The new Head of EULEX also expressed his willingness and the staff he directs to provide support to prosecutorial institutions through the role of monitoring and counseling in their journey towards strengthening the rule of law in Kosovo in full compliance with EU best practices.



The 178th meeting of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council is held

Pristina, 21 February 2020 - The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council adopted today at its regular meeting, the 178th in a row, the Annual Work Report of the KPC for 2019, which was introduced by Chairman Bahri Hyseni, where he outlined specific and substantive aspects of the Council's one-year work.

The Council also approved the establishment of three new departments in the Special Prosecution Office of the Republic of Kosovo: the Department for Combating Corruption, the Department for Organized Crime and Financial Crime, and the Department against Terrorism, introduced by the Chief State Prosecutor, Alexander Lumezi.

On the other hand, the KPC has adopted two periodic reports for the period July - September and October - December 2019, which are drafted in the framework of regular reporting on combating economic crimes, presented by the National Coordinator for Fighting Economic Crimes, Shqipdon Fazliu.

The Prosecutorial Council also approved the Request of the Chief State Prosecutor for the transfer of three prosecutors - two to the Special Prosecution Office of the Republic of Kosovo and one to the Basic Prosecution in Ferizaj, and a decision was made to transfer a prosecutor from the Basic Prosecution of Pristina to that of Mitrovica for a specified period.



The drafting of the Regulation on the organization and activity of the KPC continues

Pristina, 25 February 2020- The Committee on Normative Issues, chaired by the Chairperson, Zejnullah Gashi, held the next meeting to continue drafting the regulation on the Organization and Activity of the KPC, in which, in addition to the members of the Committee, also attended by the Director General of the Secretariat, the Director of the PPRU and representatives of Legal Office.

During this meeting, several provisions of this regulation were discussed, such as the duties and responsibilities of the Council, responsibilities of the Deputy Chairperson, the quorum of Council meetings and the decision-making of the Council.



The next meeting of the Committee for Administration of Prosecution offices is held

Pristina, 27 February 2020- The Committee for Administration of Prosecution Offices of Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, led by its chairperson Radica Milic, held its next meeting.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the concept of the document for evaluation of the working processes in the administration of the State prosecution offices, the establishment of the working group for the implementation of this process, as well as other issues related to the administration of the prosecution offices.

The members of the committee during this meeting also discussed the case load of prosecutors of serious crimes departments within Basic Prosecution Offices. In this request, the committee has requested the Prosecution Performance Review Unit to compile a detailed report with data on the number of cases, the caseload of prosecutors, and other relevant information, in order to prepare the necessary recommendations to the KPC for the recruitment, promotion and transfer of prosecutors.



The first meeting of the Mentoring Group is held

Pristina, 27 February 2020 - The first meeting of the Mentoring Program Working Group, a program that works under the Strengthening the Justice System Project, funded by the British Embassy in Pristina is held.

During this meeting, the planned monthly activities until November of this year were discussed and the possible inclusion on these activities of the Academy of Justice, OCSP, KJC and KPC.

The mentoring program, part of which will take place in Kosovo and the rest in the United Kingdom, aims to enhance the skills of selected judges and prosecutors in handling high-profile corruption, organized crime and money laundering.

Beneficiaries of this program, which was developed through a transparent process of interviewing candidates from the ranks of judges and prosecutors and received the approval of the Kosovo Judicial Council and Prosecutorial Council, are: Vaton Durguti, Kreshnik Radoniqi and Violeta Husaj Rogova (judges), Atdhe Dema, Armend Hamiti and Burim Çerkini (prosecutors).

It is worth noting that upon completion of the program, its beneficiaries will disseminate the knowledge gained to their peers in order to benefit the entire criminal justice system in Kosovo.



Training for Protocol is held

Officials of Secretariat and Unit of Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, officials of Prosecution offices attended two day training for protocol and label, organized by Academy of Justice.

The purpose of this training was to acquire knowledge of protocol and label, as a need for better organization of various activities in the prosecutorial system, for which knowledge of state protocol is required.

This training led by the Director of State Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Orhan Hajrizi, addressed topics that will accompany the prosecution system during various activities.

Labeling, hosting delegations, Official attire, diplomatic communication and organizing events are some of the topics covered in this two-day training.



Vetting in Kosovo, topic of discussion table

Pristina, 28 February 2020 - How to implement a process to ensure complete independence of the justice system was the topic of today's discussion table, organized by the Group for Legal and Political Studies, where the Kosovo vetting process, which was attended by the Chairman of the Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni and the Chairman of the Judicial Council, Skender Çoçaj, the Minister of Justice, Albulena Haxhiu, members of the Kosovo Assembly, representatives of the US Embassy, the British Embassy and representatives of civil society in Kosovo.

In this context, in the capacity of a panelist, the Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni, has said that vetting should be permanent and a process that takes place daily through legitimate legal and constitutional mechanisms.



Chairman Hyseni emphasized that when talking about public perception we should say clearly that at every meeting or every public statement we have never said that we are satisfied with the work we do, but we have emphasized that we are working hard and have tangible results. So, I have to tell you that it is not our fault that visa liberalization is not being done, because we have an official document that we have done our job. However, nevertheless, the perception is negative, but it is not only negative for the justice system and no one can be proud of it, but this perception also exists for politics, municipalities, the legislature and many others, so this perception needs to be changed for the better of the state of Kosovo”, said Chairman Hyseni in his speech to the participants.

Consequently, other panelists discussed ways and means to implement such a process, given the current challenges and problems facing the justice system, which must be based on the laws and the Constitution of the country.



Secretariat of the KPC

Within the framework of administrative responsibilities and support for the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor and Prosecutors, the Director General of the Secretariat of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council has held various meetings with the aim of strengthening and professionalizing the administration of the prosecutorial system increasing efficiency and effectiveness at work. It has also coordinated the work and activities of the KPC Secretariat administration and prosecution administration.

The Law Office has drafted legal acts, analyzed and provided legal opinions on acts drafted by Council Secretariat units, and has assisted committees and other bodies in drafting bylaws and other documents.

The Office of Public Communication (OPC) followed the activities of the Chair of the Council, presenting their work through the media. has prepared 20 materials for the public. Has fulfilled the demands of the media and NGOs regarding their interest in getting acquainted with the ongoing work, activities and processes, which are expected to be developed in the prosecutorial system. It has also continued activities to strengthen internal, external communication and transparency.

The Office for Document Administration and Archiving, during this month, has proceeded with the following activities: Input 44, output 46, Invoices received by various prosecutors and operators 601 and 63 decisions. The Translation and Proofreading Office, which operates within the Administration Division, has translated 570 pages of materials and 38 hours of simultaneous translation.

The Information Technology Department has begun piloting data exchange between the Kosovo Police electronic system and the prosecution system (CMIS). Also, at the request of the Ministry of Justice - Kosovo Correctional Service, the Electronic Vehicle Management System has been put into use.



Prosecution Performance Review Unit of the KPC

The Prosecution Performance Review Unit (PPPU) has drafted a concept paper on the purpose, objectives and methodology of the working group for evaluating the work processes in the OCSP administration. Comparative reports on the harmonization of statistical data presented by prosecutors and registry offices for all basic prosecutions for 2019 have been drawn up, and the performance of CMIS for generating statistical reports was monitored and identified omissions were addressed.

During February, the unit compiled a large number of reports and statistics based on the request of the Kosovo Institute of Justice. Collected statistical data processed them and compiled reports on prosecutors' caseload and efficiency in their resolution for January 2020, number of cases in the prosecution offices by department and type of registries, for January 2020, and number of cases according to the groups of offenses by the Tracking Mechanism.

In cooperation with the Center for Equality and Freedom of the LGBT Community in Kosovo, CEL organized a training under the project "Access to Justice for LGBTI persons in the Western Balkans", supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Kosovo prosecutors. The beneficiaries of this training were prosecutors, professional associates and victims' advocates from all regions of Kosovo prosecution offices.