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PROSECUTORIAL COUNCIL

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Activities of Kosovo Prosecutorial Council

September 2018



The head of KPC met the rule-of-law representative at the British Embassy in Kosovo

Pristina, 6 September 2018 - The Head of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Mr. Blerim Isufaj, met with the Head of the Rule of Law Sector in the Embassy of Great Britain in Kosovo, Mr. Samuel Paice.

Mr. Isufaj and Mr. Paice discussed during the meeting for the implementation of the project "Strengthening the Judicial and Prosecutorial System of Kosovo", which is managed by the Embassy of Great Britain through the implementer "Axiom International", which is projected to last until March 2020.

On this occasion, the head of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Mr. Isufaj, has expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Head of the Rule of Law Sector, Mr. Paice, for the unreserved engagement and assistance of the Government of the United Kingdom and British people for the prosecutorial system of Kosovo.

Mr. Samuel Paice, said that Great Britain is determined to strengthen the justice system in general and the role, image and powers of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council in particular.

Both interlocutors expressed their willingness and commitment to continue the close cooperation in the implementation of this important project and other projects in the future.



156th meeting of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council is held

Pristina, 7 September 2018 - The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, led by its Chairperson, Blerim Isufaj, held today the regular 156th meeting in which a number of issues have been reviewed and approved within his scope of work.

KPC Chair Mr. Isufaj emphasized that on the basis of the reports there is an increase of efficiency in the work of prosecutors and prosecutions in general and an increase of seriousness in the handling of duties and responsibilities, which constitutes an added value and important in our institutional presentation to the citizens of Kosovo.

The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council has reviewed and approved the Report of the Oversight Committee on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Combating Corruption and Economic Crime for the period January to June 2018, reports from the Standing Committees of the Council for the period January to June 2018, as well as made a review of the Report on the Second Performance Evaluation of 12 Prosecutors with an initial mandate.

KPC has further reviewed the needs analysis for prosecutors, whereby it has approved the announcement of the competition for ten (10) prosecutors in the Basic Prosecution Offices.

The Council at today's meeting, after the completion of the promotion process, has decided to fill the Special Prosecution Office of the Republic of Kosovo with 4 new prosecutors, and has also made a decision for the announcement of the Competition for the KPC member from the civil society.



The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council intensifies cooperation with the French justice institutions.

Pristina, 10 September - Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, chaired by the Chairperson, Blerim Isufaj, has today started a visit to France's justice institutions. The visit takes place from 10 to 15 September 2018 and is supported by the EU Twinning Project.

The purpose of the visit is to acquaint with practices of France in recruiting, transferring, advancing and evaluating the performance of prosecutors. In addition, the KPC delegation will also be notified of the training of prosecutors and administration processes, including the budgetary and administrative resources of the prosecutorial system.

In this context, a visit to the High Court of Paris and to the Council was held today, where they were informed of the mission, mandate and functioning of this institution. In the coming days, visits will also be made to the main institutions of the justice system administration, such as: Judicial Services Directorate in the Ministry of Justice, Appointment, Ethics and Discipline Unit, General Inspection of Judicial Services, Directorate of Criminal Issues, General Prosecutor's Office of the Cassation Court and the Magistrates School (ENM).

The delegation consists of members of the Prosecutorial Council, the Director of the Secretariat and the Prosecution Performance Review Unit, including officials supporting the Prosecutor Performance Review Committee.

The Council intends to use the best practices from this visit and other visits in order to make policies, strategies and decisions to advance the system of administration, management, accountability and oversight of prosecutorial system in Kosovo.



The Prosecutorial Council continues its meetings in important justice institutions in France

Prishtina - Paris, 12 September 2018 - The chairman and members of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council were met today in a meeting by the Director of the Criminal Policy Directorate, Mr. Lepevre Pontalis and the Chief Inspector of the Judicial Inspection Unit, Mr. Porick Poirret.

The Delegation of the Prosecutorial Council has discussed with the representatives of these French justice institutions a number of issues of particular interest to the definition of criminal policies in matters of domestic violence, terrorism, the fight against organized crime and financial crime, as well as the disciplinary investigation proceedings prosecutors and staff, oversight of prosecutions and ethics issues

On this occasion, it was estimated that these meetings will serve the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council in drafting relevant strategies, policies and acts for the efficient and effective administration of the prosecutorial system, and in the coming days other important meetings will be held at the General Prosecutor's Office to the Court of Cassation and the Court of Appeal, whereby there will be conversations with the General Prosecutors at these courts, and on the last day of the visit a meeting will be held at the French School of Magistrates to discuss the exchange of experiences for the professional development of prosecutors.



Staff training begins for use of SMIL at the Basic Prosecution in Pristina

Pristina, 13 September 2018 - At the Basic Prosecution Office in Pristina (in the registry Sector), a training session on the use of the Case Management Information System (SMIL) has started.

This training in the Sector of registry office aims at familiarizing staff with the modern and efficient platform, achieving skills at the same time for the application and introduction of cases and data as the first stage of implementation of this system in case management in the Basic Prosecution in Pristina

In this context, the staff of the Registry Sector, under the supervision of the Prosecution Trainers, has conducted staff training, including the working process since the receipt of the criminal report, its registration in the system, and the phase of case allocation through the system to prosecutors.

The Basic Prosecution Office in Pristina is in the process of preparing preparations for starting this training system in Prosecutors' Offices, a process that will continue until full implementation of the Case Management Information System.



The EU continues to support capacity building of the prosecutorial system and criminal justice institutions in Kosovo

Pristina-Belfast, 19 September 2018 - The Head of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Blerim Isufaj, Chairperson of the Committee on Normative Affairs, Bahri Hyseni, a prosecutor from the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor and the Director of the KPC Secretariat, are staying in a visit to Northern Ireland justice institutions, a visit which was conducted under the EU project "Support to further for Kosovo institutions in the fight against organized crime, corruption and violent extremism"

On this occasion, the meetings of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council and senior officials of the institutions of justice in Northern Ireland highlighted the support and expertise for the capacity building of the criminal justice institutions in Kosovo, whereby the hosts informed Kosovo prosecutors that Northern Ireland has a unique oversight structure in the area of organized crime, as well as the return of criminal assets, which is done through the Task Force of Organized Crime (TFOC).

Head of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Blerim Isufaj, thanking senior officials for the hospitality, has highly praised Northern Ireland experience, which contains practical knowledge of how the Task Force of Organized Crime creates, applies and evaluates the strategy and action plan for organized crime.

Representatives of the prosecutorial system have been familiarized during the follow-up visit to the threat assessment design process, using the threat assessment to develop a clear and concise national strategy, and to develop a functional, specific, measurable action plan and achievable, in order to achieve further accountability of the persons responsible for the implementation of this process.

In this context, an important functional experience has been discussed with representatives of the Task Force of Organized Crime (TFOC) on the use of counterfeit criminal assets for the benefit of the community, learning about the functioning of the community's property restitution scheme, which can fit for implementation.

Other official activities during the five-day visit to Northern Ireland, attended by representatives of other law enforcement institutions in Kosovo, will be held in the Organized Crime and the Task Force of Paramilitary Crime and the National Crime Agency, Civil Recovery and Tax Team.



UNDP supports capacity building for public communication transparency

Pristina, 25 September 2018 - Prosecutors responsible for media and public communication officials in the prosecutorial system are participating in the two-day training conducted by Internews Kosova within the Project "Support the Efforts against Corruption in Kosovo" (SAEK) launched and supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

This training is in the function of capacity building for public transparency and advancement of the skills of prosecutors, responsible for media, spokespersons and officials for public communication in

the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council and the Ombudsman, pointing out the most modern and the highest technical and substantive standards of public communication, such as the theoretical and practical use of prompter - visual readers on the occasion of appearances before the media and the public.

In this context, prosecutors and other staff are trained in the steps of introducing mass credibility, creating transparency and authenticity to public opinion, which are a guarantee of fair articulation and increasing institutional credibility.

Also, the development of such training by "Internews Kosova" expert Mr. Faik Ispahiu contains a comprehensive program of theoretical and practical techniques for the use of initial knowledge, public presentation strategy, material and text preparation, initial knowledge for diction, practical application, technical training, installation, assembly and dismantling of equipment, management of different situations, preparation of material and text for presentation to the public.

By the end of this year, in order to increase the transparency and overall performance of public communication, a number of such basic training and workshops are foreseen for the standardization of the proper information and public communication in the prosecutorial system of the Republic of Kosovo.



Joint declaration of the three Kosovo justice leaders is signed

Pristina, 25 September 2018 - The Head of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Blerim Isufaj, Minister of Justice, Mr. Abelard Tahiri and Head of Kosovo Judicial Council, Nehat Idrizi, have signed today the Joint Declaration during the presentation of the Joint Agenda "Justice 2020", emphasizing strongly that the necessary coordination will be made by respecting the full independence, neutrality and division of powers of each institution, which is part of the common agenda.

The head of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Blerim Isufaj emphasized that this joint agenda shows the commitment to strengthening the rule of law, in which case the prosecutorial system and all its mechanisms will be in full service of its realization, as a precious event for our country. Whereas, the Minister of Justice, Abelard Tahiri, stated that there is a clear definition that 2020 is a year in which there is no longer talk of the same topics and the year in which Kosovo justice will function in full efficiency and our justice system will be a system fully reliable, accountable, accountable and in full service to the citizens. On the other hand, Kosovo Judicial Council Chairman Nehat Idrizi has estimated that success is achieved when actions are coordinated.

As always, this time, the powerful support of justice processes, the US Embassy, through outgoing ambassador Greg Delawie, has emphasized that "Justice 2020" is not only a legal obligation, but is grounded in the sincere desire to improve the rule of law to meet the demands of the citizens of Kosovo. Also, the Head of the Rule of Law Sector at the EU Office in Kosovo, Cezary Michalczuck, the Head of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) Alexandra Papadopoulou and British Ambassador Ruari O'Conoll has also provided support for the implementation of the Justice 2020 agenda.

The Joint Agenda "Justice in Kosovo" presents a dynamic plan for the measures that the relevant institutions will undertake based on their exclusive competences, respecting the full independence and division of powers, hasty and based on where Kosovo's justice should be in the year 2020, seen from the perspective of the quality of services, efficiency, cost, capacity, legal clarity of functions, as well as the radical growth of citizens' trust in the rule of law, as defined by the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo.



Meeting of the EU Project Steering Committee

Pristina, 27 September 2018 - The Chairman of the Prosecutorial Council, Blerim Isufaj, that of the Judicial Council, Nehat Idrizi, Director of KPC Secretariat, Lavdim Krasniqi and other representatives of the prosecutorial and judicial system as well as other Kosovo institutions participated in the EU-funded Project Management Council meeting and managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo under the title "Support and further Kosovo institutions in the fight against organized crime, corruption and violent extremism".

The KPC Chair, Mr. Blerim Isufaj, thanked EU representatives for providing support to the prosecutorial system institutions, where there have been positive and comprehensive advancements from the developed activities." Concrete results are already seen and are evident in the daily implementation of the plan of this project, especially in the most vital areas, bringing great achievements, as defined by the objectives of the Project", said Mr. Isufaj.

At this meeting, in which was also present the Project Leader, Ian McDonald, and other representatives from the EU Office, was discussed the Fifth Report of the Quarter Program (13 May-12 August 2018), Activities, Difficulties exceeded and emerged opportunities, then a presentation of the activity plan and a summary of the essential events and platforms of the beneficiary parties was made.

During the meeting, four major components were discussed, such as: further support of Kosovo's institutions in the effective fight against organized crime through efforts focused on seizure and confiscation of illegal assets, effective prevention and fight against money laundering, prevention and the fight against organized crime through coordination and inter-institutional cooperation, as well as the fight against violent extremism.

At the end of the meeting were highlighted future goals, mid-term review of the Project and review of achieved results compared to planning, as well as consideration of new priorities.