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COUNCIL

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Activities of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council

September 2019



1. Activities of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council



The 171st meeting of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council is held

Pristina, September 3, 2019 - Kosovo Prosecutorial Council held its 171st meeting, chaired by Chairman Bahri Hyseni.

Initially, members of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council approved without recommendations the Quarterly Report for the period April-June 2019 on the activities of the National Coordinator for combating economic crime, presented by the General Director of the KPC Secretariat, Lavdim Krasniqi.

Also, the six-month Report of the Supervisory Committee on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan and Action Plan for Fighting Corruption and Economic Crime for the period January - June 2019, which was presented by a member of this Committee, the Prosecutor in the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor, Laura Pula was approved.

Consequently, after the drawing of lots, KPC members approved the establishment of evaluation panels, review committees and reserve committees for the appointment of the Chief Special Prosecutor of the Republic of Kosovo and the Chief Prosecutor of the Basic Prosecution in Pristina.



In the meantime, a decision has been taken to announce an internal competition for the promotion of a prosecutor from the General Department to the Serious Crimes Department at the Basic Prosecution in Gjakova.

The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council also agreed to sign a Cooperation Agreement between the Council, Axiom International and the Agency, supported by the United Kingdom Embassy in Kosovo, an agreement intended to support the KPC in recruitment processes, transfer, advancement, performance evaluation and capacity building through the mentoring program.

At the end of the meeting, as planned, the Council reviewed the performance evaluation reports of prosecutors.



Memorandum of Understanding between KPC and GIZ on strengthening the mechanisms of the Office for Victims Advocacy and Assistance is signed

Pristina, September 4, 2019-the Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni, hosted the Project Manager for the Legal and Administrative Reform of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Karl Weber.

The purpose of the meeting was to sign a memorandum of Understanding between the KPC and GIZ to support the case management project at the Office for Victim's Advocacy and Assistance (OVAA), which aims to develop and implement an electronic system, which manages all cases and will be able to facilitate communication and interconnection with other institution's systems.

Chairman Hyseni thanked Manager Weber for his continued commitment to strengthening the various mechanisms of the prosecutorial system, saying that implementation of the system by OVAA staff will be mandatory, whereby the KPC will conduct all the obligations set out in this memorandum.

On the other hand, Mr. Weber has said that the organization he represents will support the development and implementation of the electronic system, as well as training staff on how to use and maintain the system until its full implementation.

KPC and GIZ will jointly monitor project activities until finalization through a working group, which will continue until the planned implementation of this project - 31 March 2021.



Chief Prosecutor Lumezi and Chairman Hyseni hosted in a meeting the Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Kosovo, Nicholas Abbott

Pristina, 5 September 2019 - The Chief State Prosecutor, Alexander Lumezi, together with the Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni, met today with the new Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Kosovo, Nicholas Abbott, wishing him welcome and success in the new diplomatic mission.

During this meeting, Chief Prosecutor Lumezi briefed Ambassador Abbott on the work, achievements and challenges of the State Prosecutor in combating corruption, organized crime and various criminal offenses, as well as his commitment to strengthening the rule of law in the Republic of Kosovo.

Also, Chief Prosecutor Lumezi spoke about the preparations and commitments of the State Prosecutor in the process of early elections, promising investigation and prosecution for all those who harm the electoral process.



Meanwhile, Chairman Hyseni briefed Ambassador Abbott on the work and activity of the KPC, and the commitment of the Council committees in strengthening and promoting the integrity, professionalism, accountability, transparency and independence of the prosecutorial system.

On the other hand, the new UK Ambassador to Kosovo, Nicholas Abbott, has offered support to improve the prosecutorial system, stating that the rule of law has been and remains the UK's priority.

Both heads of the prosecutorial system and the British Ambassador have also discussed deepening cooperation, enhancing transparency and integrity between the institutions of the State Prosecutor, the Prosecutorial Council and the British Embassy in Kosovo in pursuing joint projects related to the field of justice and the rule of law.

At the end of the meeting, Chief Prosecutor Lumezi and Chairman Hyseni thanked the United Kingdom for the continuous contribution and assistance provided to the consolidation of Kosovo's prosecutorial system.



Memorandum of Understanding on the Improvement of the Kosovo Prosecutorial System

Pristina, 5 September 2019 - In order to increase accountability, transparency and professionalism and strengthen the Prosecutorial System, the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC) and the United Kingdom Government, represented by the British Embassy in Pristina, through its implementing partners Axiom International and Agencia Ltd have signed a memorandum of understanding. This Memorandum of Understanding was signed by KPC Chair Bahri Hyseni and Project Director, Axiom International and Agencia Ltd, Steve Pitts.

The KPC Chairman, Bahri Hyseni, the Chief State Prosecutor, Alexander Lumezi, and the British Ambassador to Pristina, Nicholas Abbott, spoke about the launch of this new collaboration between the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council and the British Embassy in Pristina.

KPC Chairperson Bahri Hyseni said the experiences of British experts are very welcome and through the project "Strengthening the Justice System in Kosovo" will undoubtedly strengthen the implementation of selection principles based on merit, accountability, equity and transparency. It will also work jointly with partners from the United



Kingdom, as well as with other strategic partners of the prosecutorial system, to further improve the prosecutors' performance appraisal system, in order to be more accountable and to act within internationally recognized standards, said Chairman Hyseni among other things.

Chief State Prosecutor Aleksander Lumezi said: "This cooperation with international partners gives us the right to believe that this project in the future will give concrete results in strengthening the rule of law. This cooperation through this project will also influence the creation of standards during the procedures of selection and recruitment of prosecutors, promotion, and appointment and also performance evaluation. The Memorandum should be guided by the principle of understanding, the principle of sovereignty and mutual interest in achieving common goals in accordance with the legal framework of the Republic of Kosovo. Also, this memorandum aims to support, train and monitor prosecutors dealing with cases of organized crime, high-level corruption and money laundering".

British Ambassador to Pristina Nicholas Abbott said today is his first day as the United Kingdom ambassador to Kosovo and is pleased to meet with the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, the Chief State Prosecutor and prosecutors - who have an important role to play in investigating and combating negative phenomena. He added that he believes this fact clearly underscores the United Kingdom's commitment and importance to strengthening the rule of law in Kosovo. "I am also pleased to be present at formalizing our even closer cooperation, through programmatic support from implementing partner Axiom and Agencia. Our implementing partner is the outgoing hand of the British Embassy who is already working closely with you on many aspects such as recruitment, promotion, appointments, performance evaluation and integrity, said Ambassador Abbott. "

This Memorandum of Understanding will influence the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council to receive support in enhancing the efficiency in recruiting, advancing and transferring all State Prosecutors and evaluating their performance.



The meeting of Prosecution Administration Committee is held

Pristina, 6 September 2019 - Prosecution Administration Committee of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, led by its chair, Prosecutor Radica Milic, held its next meeting.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and discuss the implementation of the Case Management Information System (CMIS) in the prosecutorial system, the prosecution workload with cases and other prosecution administration issues.

On this occasion, the Chairperson of the Commission, Radica Milic, informed members of her meetings with officials of the Prosecution Performance Review Unit and the KPC Information Technology Department, where the challenges and difficulties of prosecutions were discussed in the implementation of CMIS.

Following the meeting, the members of the Commission also discussed the steps to be taken to overcome these difficulties and agreed to begin carrying out visits to the prosecution offices of the country to assess the situation and prepare appropriate recommendations.

However, at the conclusion of the meeting, the Commission assessed the positive results in the implementation of CMIS, finding that its implementation is indisputable and will greatly facilitate the work of prosecutions, and will have a positive impact on the efficiency of the prosecution the work of the prosecution offices and the accuracy of reporting on the work of the State Prosecutor.



A Voluntary blood donation action was held in the prosecutorial system

Pristina, September 10, 2019 - Kosovo Prosecutorial Council and State Prosecutor's Office in cooperation with Kosovo National Blood Transfusion Center have organized a voluntary blood donation action, in which case the call for donations responded to a large number of officials of the prosecutorial system.

The inter-institutional cooperation of the prosecutorial system and the National Blood Transfusion Center has continued to grow due to the mutual interest to do such humanitarian acts that save lives.

22 employees of Kosovo Prosecutorial Council and State Prosecutor responded to today's blood donation initiative. Kosovo National Blood Transfusion Center has highly praised the blood donation initiative, expressing gratitude to all volunteer blood donors.



The Prosecution Administration Committee visits the Basic Prosecution in Pristina

Pristina, September 10, 2019 - The Committee for Prosecution Administration of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council's, chaired by Chairperson Radica Milic, together with the Director of the Prosecution Performance Review Unit, Valon Jupa, visited the Basic Prosecution in Pristina.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the level of application of the Electronic Case Management System (CMIS) in the Basic Prosecution in Pristina and the challenges of prosecutors and administrative staff for its implementation.

Chairperson Milic announced the intention and commitment of the KPC to implement CMIS and the necessary support that the Council will provide in this process.

Acting Chief Prosecutor of the Basic Prosecution Office of Pristina, Kujtim Munishi, informed attendees about the difficulties in implementing CMIS, requesting the support of the Council and the Department of Information Technology to eliminate technical problems. At the conclusion of the meeting it was stated that CMIS should be implemented without compromise and intensified the maximum commitment of all users to complete the phase of consolidation of CMIS functionality, whereby the participants demanded the realization of another joint meeting to see the overall results of the implementation of CMIS.



Workshop on finalizing the prosecutorial system web portal

Pristina, 11 September 2019 - The Secretariat of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council organized a two-day workshop on the finalization of the website of the Kosovo Prosecutorial System, in which the General Director of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council Secretariat, Lavdim Krasniqi, members of the web development team, as well as other officials.

The purpose of this two-day workshop is to conclude the draft design of the prosecutorial system web portal.

Consequently, the objective of this workshop is also to increase transparency, harmonize the data and facilitate public access to information of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council and the State Prosecutor.

During the workshop the practical and theoretical content of the development of the main visual and content elements, which will enable public access and transparency, as well as the application of high standards in the field of public communication of the prosecutorial system were discussed in detail.



Chairman Hyseni on a study visit to the USA

Pristina, September 11, 2019 - Chairman of the Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni, President of the Supreme Court, Enver Peci, in the capacity of Chairperson of the Committee on Punitive Policy, together with Chairperson of the Kosovo Judicial Council, Skender Çoçaj, and the members of this Committee, Chairperson of the Basic Court of Pristina, Aferdita Bytyqi, Supreme Court Judge Agim Maliqi and State Prosecutor Agron Qala are on a study visit to the United States of America.

In the early days of the visit, which began this Monday, the Kosovo Judiciary delegation held meetings with prominent judges, including John Tunheim, of the Minneapolis District Court, meeting with Minnesota Chief Prosecutor Keith Ellison, then held participated in court hearings and discussion panels, with the aim of gaining experience in terms of punitive policy in the American criminal justice system.

The next meetings will be held with leaders and members of the Minnesota Penalty Policy Committee, including Kelly Mitchell, chair of the Penalty Policy Committee in Saint Paul, Minnesota, then with University of Minnesota professors Richard Frazee and Kevin Reitz, with prosecutors from Washington County, etc. The one-week visit in Minnesota is powered by the US Embassy in Pristina, under the work plan for the implementation of Guidelines for Punitive Policy in Kosovo.



Chairman Hyseni hosted a group of auditors of the United States Government

Pristina, September 18, 2019- The Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni, together with Deputy Chairman Arben Ismajli and the chairpersons of the KPS Permanent Committees, hosted a group of auditors of the United States Government.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the priorities for supporting the rule of law through various programs, which the US embassy in Kosovo implements in the prosecutorial system, in order to advance and strengthen the field of justice.

The chairman of the Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni, highly appreciated the great support of the US Government and the American people, through the Embassy for building the overall capacity of the prosecutorial system, stressing that this support of the American state is very important.

Such meetings will be held in the future to make the necessary assessments regarding the progress of implementation of various US programs in the prosecutorial system.



Meeting with prosecution administrators through videoconference is held

Pristina, 19 September 2019 - The General Director of the Secretariat of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Lavdim Krasniqi, held a videoconference with prosecution administrators. The meeting was attended by heads of departments and administrative officials of the Secretariat of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council.

The purpose of the meeting was to communicate and coordinate the cooperation between KPC organizational units and prosecution offices at all levels.

During the meeting they discussed the business processes, E - assets and new changes made to this system as well as the progress of registering old cases in the Case Management Information System (CMIS). Whereas the annual planning of prosecution needs was another topic addressed between the General Director of the SKPC and the prosecution administrators.

It was also discussed with the administrators about the continuity of the work of the prosecution staff and it was requested that the continuity of the work is in conformity with the legal acts that regulate this field.

At the end of the meeting, Director Krasniqi used this meeting to inform the prosecution administrators of new developments in the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council Secretariat related to the work and needs of prosecution offices.



The current budget execution of the prosecutorial system is assessed

Pristina, September 19, 2019- The committee for Budget, Finance and Personnel of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, chaired by prosecutor Deshire Jusaj, held its next meeting, in addition to the members of the committee attended the General Director of the SKPC, Lavdim Krasniqi, Head of Departments and Administrative officers of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council Secretariat.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the execution of the Budget for 2019 in Prosecutorial System of Kosovo and the challenges for its execution. The General Director of the KPC Secretariat, Lavdim Krasniqi, has presented the report of the current budget execution, including all Council budget programs by economic categories, where the Commission has assessed the current budget execution successful.

At this meeting, members of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Personnel were briefed on the challenges posted by the payments of experts appointed by the chamber of doctors for prosecution services.

At the end of the meeting was discussed also the recruitment and planning of this process foreseen by the end of this year.



A roundtable on Implementation of the Regulation on Appointment of Chief State Prosecutor and Chief Prosecutors is held

Pristina, September 20, 2019- Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, chaired by Bahri Hyseni and KPC administration representatives, participated in a roundtable discussion organized by British partners "Axiom International and Agencia Ltd", who are implementing the Project "Strengthening the justice system in Kosovo", which is supported by the United Kingdom Embassy.

The purpose of the discussion was to implement the Regulation on the Appointment of the Chief State Prosecutor and Chief Prosecutors, specifically the practical implementation of the Guidelines for Sections 13 and 14 of this Regulation.

Initially, the Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni, emphasized that close cooperation with the United Kingdom Embassy in Kosovo is delivering concrete results in strengthening the rule of law and directly impacting the advancement of standards during the appointment of Chief Prosecutors, through the Project "Strengthening the justice system in Kosovo".

On the other hand, the British experts expressed their conviction that this roundtable helps to clearly define the criteria of the appointment process, and enables the KPC to provide an objective, transparent, non-discriminatory and inclusive merit-based process.



At this roundtable it was assessed that this guide provides a fair and consistent approach when applying the criteria for the appointment of chief prosecutors, such as interview structure, rating scale, concept paper evaluation, candidate integrity rating, leadership and managerial skills as well as technical knowledge and experience.



A roundtable on the latest developments in the justice system is held

Pristina, September 25, 2019 - The Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Bahri Hyseni, the Chief State Prosecutor, Aleksander Lumezi, the KPC Deputy Chairman, Arben Ismajli and some KPC members, attended a roundtable, which was organized by the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Kosovo and the Group for Legal and Policy Studies (GLPS), with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Kosovo, Nicholas Abbott and representatives of international institutions and civil society.

The purpose of this roundtable was to discuss the latest developments in justice during the period March - September 2019, which is summarized in an analysis of the platform “Justice Today” Group for Legal and Political Studies.



In this context, the KPC Chairperson, Bahri Hyseni, emphasized the great importance of respecting the principles of non-interference in the prosecutorial system, highlighting some findings in the analysis of the GLPS, which he characterized as inconsistent with the cases identified. Chairman Hyseni then presented a set of facts written about the transparent processes and the proper implementation of legal and subordinate legal acts by the KPC, indicating that the appointments were legally based, fair and merit-based, and the Council's responses to the protection of legality following violations by prosecutors and the punishment of unethical acts, as well as steps taken to strengthen the transparency, efficiency, integrity, independence and general impartiality of the prosecutorial system.

Whereas, the Chief State Prosecutor, Aleksander Lumezi, has consequently discussed the operational actions of the State Prosecutor, with particular emphasis on combating corruption, organized crime and crimes of all kinds in Kosovo, regardless of their level of origin and their institutional or political origins, citing numerous instances highlighting the institutional steps to safeguard and secure the independence of prosecutors, as well as indictments for high-profile corruption and organized crime cases.

On the other hand, the British Ambassador to Kosovo, Nicholas Abbott, has praised the Prosecutorial Council for drafting the Regulation on Appointing Chief Prosecutors, however, according to him; the prosecutorial system should address cases where state prosecutors are publicly attacked or denounced by politicians, as well as more concrete results in combating corruption and high-profile organized crime.



The 172nd meeting of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council is held

Pristina, 27 September, 2019- Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC), led by Chairman Bahri Hyseni, held its next meeting, approving and adopting a number of points on the agenda.

The Council has confirmed the final list of five candidates for Chief Prosecutor of the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo: Blerim Isufaj, Atdhe Dema, Haki Gecaj, Armend Hamiti and Afrim Shefkiu, as well as the list of four candidates for Chief Prosecutor of Basic Prosecution in Pristina: Fitore Sadikaj, Kujtim Munishi, Fatmir Behrami and Valdet Gashi, while one candidate was eliminated from the race who did not meet the legal criteria.

During today's meeting, an investigative panel was established to deal with a disciplinary case at the Basic Prosecution in Pristina and two reports were approved - Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Treatment of Claims by Two Former Prosecutors for compensation of jubilee salaries, these requests have been rejected and Report of the Committee for the Advancement of Prosecutor Ramiz Buzhala in the Serious Crimes Department of the Basic Prosecution in Gjakova.

During this meeting, the Council, for the first time, after the entry into force of the Law on the Disciplinary Responsibility of Judges and Prosecutors, held 5 hearings, where the reports of the relevant investigative-disciplinary panels were dealt with, and the decisions taken will be published after to become definitive.



KPC Secretariat

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.

The Law Office has 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 (DPO) has followed the activities of the Chairman of the Council, the General Director of the Secretariat, various committees and other units of the prosecutorial system, presenting their work through the media.

During this month, the OPC has prepared 17 materials for the public in different formats, such as: communications, statements, explanations, reactions, etc. This office has also fulfilled the demands of the media and NGOs regarding their interest in getting acquainted with the activities, activities and processes developed, the following and those that are expected to take place in the prosecutorial system.

The Internal Audit Unit continued its regular audit in the Procurement Division.

During June, the recruitment process for six positions has been completed, with six officials starting work in the Kosovo prosecutorial system.

The Department of Information Technology has prepared the criteria for the distribution of cases to the prosecution automatically by CMIS. Implementation plan for the KPC - GIZ agreement on the development and implementation of an electronic case management system at the Victims Protection and Advocacy Office has been prepared.

Procurement Division during this month conducted a total of 13 procurement procedures, 3 medium value procedures and 8 price quotation procedures, 2 negotiated procedures and signed a total of 3 contracts. Purchase orders were also processed for all invoices, which have been continuously received by contractors.



Prosecution Performance Review Unit of the KPC

The Prosecution Performance Review Unit (PPRU) has drafted the report of prosecutors' participation in mandatory training, updated and prepared a report on the objectives achieved by the PPRU, and has set the work priorities for the fourth quarter of 2019.

The Training Office in cooperation with AD and international partners has organized various activities to develop the professional skills of prosecutors and administrative staff.

The Bureau of Statistics has collected statistical data on the status of cases for each prosecutor and department by type of records, and compiled statistical reports for August. It has harmonized them with the data of each prosecutor, collected statistical data on the workload of prosecutors and their efficiency in solving cases for each prosecutor, and compiled statistical reports for August for each prosecutor separately. It has also prepared data as requested by the Information Office and the European Integration Officer.