



# **BULLETIN OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE PROSECUTOR**

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**In the edition of this Bulletin, the activities of the OCSP for JUNE 2024 are reflected**

## **Acting Chief State Prosecutor: The new web portal brings the prosecutorial system closer to the public, media and civil society**

*Prishtina, June 05, 2024 –*

At the launch ceremony of the new web-portal of the prosecutorial system of the Republic of Kosovo, the Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, has given a speech on the occasion, where he emphasized that this window of information that is being launched today will be a good way for every citizen, civil society organization or media to have full and real-time information, in order for the image of the State Prosecutor and the prosecutorial system to be advanced, as it is being advanced every day, and for this he has thanked civil society and the media, which are influencing to increase public confidence in the work of the State Prosecutor.



Also, Acting Chief State Prosecutor Kelmendi has encouraged citizens, media and civil society to use the opportunities and access that the prosecutorial system is giving them, such as this new web portal where they can have more information about the work done by the State Prosecutor, because great work is being done.

In the end, Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, thanked the UNDP, which supported this project.

The design and development of the new web portal of the prosecutorial system is made possible by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kosovo, specifically by the Project "Support to Anti-Corruption Efforts, SAEK III, through the assistance of the Government of

Switzerland and the Government of Sweden and will be at the service of the media, civil society and all citizens of the country.

**Representatives of the prosecutorial system participate in the publication of the OSCE Report on the Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Judicial Response to Serious Organized Crime and Corruption in the Western Balkans”**

**Prishtina, June 5, 2024 –**

Deputy Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Agron Qalaj and the member of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council from the ranks of the Appellate Prosecution, Mr. Arian Gashi participated in the presentation of the Report of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), entitled: “From words to deeds– assessing the effectiveness of the judicial response to serious organized crime and corruption in the Western Balkans”.



Both of them were in the capacity of panelists, in which case they answered the questions of the participants.

This publication was attended by all representatives of the country's justice institutions, where the main findings and recommendations of the report were discussed, which aims to assist the relevant institutions in addressing the identified shortcomings in the prosecution and adjudication of serious cases of organized crime and corruption, through providing practical

recommendations based on the findings from the monitoring of judicial processes by the project.



At the end of today's meeting, it was said that the cooperation of the justice system and international organizations such as the OSCE is essential to address the challenges and improve transparency and efficiency in the prosecutorial and judicial system.

**Acting Chief State Prosecutor and Chief Special Prosecutor of the Special Prosecution Office of the Consultative Forum of Chief State Prosecutors and Attorneys General and Chief Special Prosecutors of the Western Balkans**

**Prishtina, June 7, 2024 –**

The Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi together with the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK), Mr. Blerim Isufaj and the SPRK prosecutor, Ms. Ilirjana Collaku - Tafa, participated in the Consultative Forum of Chief Prosecutors General and Special Prosecutors of the Western Balkans held in Budva, Montenegro, a meeting organized by the Office of the Supreme State Prosecutor of Montenegro and EUROJUST through the Criminal Justice Project for the Western Balkans.



The meeting started with a warm welcome from the hosts of this event, namely the Chief Prosecutor of the State of Montenegro, Mr. Milorad Markovic, President of Eurojust Ladislav Hamran, to continue with the Chief State Prosecutors/Attorneys General and Special Chief Prosecutors of all Western Balkan countries.

In his speech, the U.S. Attorney General, Mr. Besim Kelmendi highly praised this meeting as a good opportunity to increase cooperation between the prosecution offices of the countries of the region in combating organized crime and other cross-border crimes, where he emphasized that the participation of the State Prosecutor's delegation in this meeting shows the willingness and institutional will for cooperation with all prosecution offices of the Western Balkans.



Also, Acting Chief Prosecutor Kelmendi spoke about the importance that the State Prosecutor has given to international legal cooperation in the criminal field, the importance of exchanging mutual institutional experiences and the opportunities given to the State Prosecutor the mechanisms and instruments of EUROJUST in the field of criminal justice.

On the other hand, the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Blerim Isufaj also spoke about the importance of international cooperation between the countries of the region and the EU to combat cross-border criminal activities as successfully as possible.

He stressed that through the assistance provided by EUROJUST, the Special Prosecution of Kosovo has shown more satisfactory results in the fight against organized crime.

Chief Prosecutor Isufaj emphasized the fact that this cooperation between Kosovo and the Eurojust Project for Criminal Justice for the Western Balkan countries has enabled the Republic of Kosovo to be part of the Joint Investigation Teams established between the countries with the assistance of EUROJUST to investigate the criminal offenses of organized crime and other cross-border crimes.

This meeting at the level of Chief State Prosecutors/Attorneys General and Special Chief Prosecutors of the region aimed to promote and improve cross-border legal cooperation and challenges in combating organized crime and corruption.

### **The Acting Chief State Prosecutor and the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Prosecution Office meet with the President of EUROJUST**

***Prishtina, June 7, 2024 –***

The Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi together with the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK), Mr. Blerim Isufaj and the SPRK prosecutor, Ms. Ilirjana Çollaku – Tafa, held a meeting with the President of Eurojust, Mr. Ladislav Hamran.



The central topic of the meeting between representatives of the State Prosecutor's Institution with President Hamran was the advancement of bilateral cooperation, namely the need for Kosovo's presence as a permanent observer in EUROJUST, which was considered as an essential step to strengthen mutual cooperation.

In this context, the President of Eurojust highly praised the commitment, cooperation and close interaction that Kosovo prosecutors have had and continue to have with this EU agency in the field of criminal justice.



On the other hand, Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi thanked President Hamran for the constructive cooperation and professional assistance that EUROJUST has given to the State Prosecutor, stressing that we must be determined in combating all forms of crime, and expressed readiness for this cooperation to be deepened in the future.

The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Prosecution, Mr. Blerim Isufaj, spoke about the actions that SPRK has taken in intensifying and advancing the cooperation with Eurojust, and emphasized that

SPRK will respond in a timely and effective manner to all requests and obligations addressed by Eurojust.



In November 2022, the State Prosecutor's Office formalized the legal cooperation with EUROJUST, appointing a permanent liaison prosecutor as well as a prosecutor as a point of contact regarding the implementation of the "WB crime JUST" project, which has started to be implemented in the Western Balkans.

**Acting Chief State Prosecutor and Chief Prosecutor of the Special Prosecution Office meet with the General Attorney of Albania, the Head of SPAK and the Supreme Prosecutor of Montenegro**

*Prishtina, June 8, 2024 –*

The Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi together with the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK), Mr. Blerim Isufaj and the SPRK prosecutor, Ms. Ilirjana Collaku - Tafa, during the Consultative Forum of Chief Prosecutors General Attorneys and Chief Special Prosecutors of the Western Balkans held in Budva, Montenegro, held meetings with the General Attorney of Albania, Mr. Ilirjana Collaku. Olsian Çela, Head of SPAK, Mr. Altin Dumani, and the Supreme State Prosecutor of Montenegro, Mr. Milorad Markovic.



During the meeting with the counterparts of the Albanian state - the General Attorney, Mr. Cela and the , Mr. Dumani, Acting Chief State Prosecutor and Chief Prosecutor of the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo, had fruitful discussions on topics of joint work, namely increasing the level of cooperation, coordination and efficiency in the fight against crime and strengthening the rule of law in both countries.



Also, Acting Chief State Prosecutor Kelmendi and Chief Prosecutor Isufaj, met with the Supreme Prosecutor of the State of Montenegro, Mr. Milorad Markovic, with whom they discussed the further advancement of cooperation through the signing of memoranda as well as the formation of joint investigation teams in order to fight all forms of crime.

**The Office for the Recovery of Assets is holding a workshop on the drafting of Standard Operating Procedures**

***Prishtina, June 12, 2024 –***

The Office for the Recovery of Assets, led by State Prosecutor Mr. Bahri Hyseni, is holding the workshop in Ohrid for drafting the Standard Action Procedures for the Office for the Recovery of Assets.



Acting Chief State Prosecutor Mr. Besim Kelmendi is also participating and international partners, who support the work of this Office by the ROLAG participating in this workshop is th project, state prosecutors, as well as delegated officials of law enforcement institutions.



These standard operating procedures, which have been drafted in accordance with EU asset recovery documents and standards, will be of assistance to all prosecutors in need of the assistance of the Office for Recovery Assets.

**The Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Kelmendi, on the occasion of the Feast of the Eid al-Adha**

***Prishtina, June 16, 2024 -***

Dear Muslims who celebrate the feastof Eid al-Adha, allow me to convey to you the warmest and most heartfelt wishes for you and your families!

Celebrations alike convey positive messages and feelings to everyone. Therefore, in the virtue of this, may joy, hope and goodness prevail in your homes and families!



Respectfully,

Basim Kelmendi

Acting Chief State Prosecutor

**Representatives of prosecutorial, judicial institutions and the Kosovo Justice Academy meet with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of Germany**

***Prishtina, June 20, 2024 –***

Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Besim Kelmendi, Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC), Ardian Hajdaraj, President of the Supreme Court, Fejzullah Rexhepi, Chairman of the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC), Albert Zogaj, and the Director of the Academy of Justice, Enver Fejzullahu, met today with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of the German Federation, Benjamin Strasser.

The meeting was also attended by the General Director of the Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ), Stefan Hülshörster, the representative of the Ministry of Justice of the German Federation, Piotr Maladionski, and the representative of the Embassy of the German Federation in Kosovo, Sebastian Leuschner, with their collaborators.



During this meeting, the objectives and priorities of the Kosovo judicial and prosecutorial system were discussed, with a focus on justice reform, the rule of law and the empowerment of free professions.

Representatives of Kosovo institutions expressed their gratitude for the continued support of the German Federation and especially the IRZ in strengthening the rule of law in Kosovo.

Secretary Strasser thanked the Kosovo institutions for their continued cooperation, stressing the importance of increasing efficiency, transparency and accountability in the judicial and prosecutorial system.

**Acting Chief State Prosecutor urges proactive engagement of chief prosecutors in the mandatory review of investigations**

***Prishtina, June 25, 2024 –***

The Acting Chief Prosecutor of State, Mr. Besim Kelmendi has held a regular collegium with all the chief prosecutors and representatives of the country's prosecution offices, which was also attended by the prosecutors of the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor and the representative of the US Embassy in Kosovo, Ms. Edita Kryeziu.



In this meeting, Acting Chief Prosecutor Kelmendi discussed with the chief prosecutors and representatives of the prosecution offices about the unification of practices related to the authorizations of the State Prosecutor for the Police, as well as about the procedural actions taken by the prosecutors before and during the investigations, where in this regard, Acting Chief State Prosecutor Mr. Besim Kelmendi informed the chief prosecutors that he will issue a Mandatory Instruction to all state prosecutors regarding this issue.

Another important topic that was discussed in this meeting was the need to appoint responsible prosecutors in each prosecution office for International Legal Cooperation in Criminal Matters, as well as the representation of the State Prosecutor institution in official activities at home and abroad.

Also, the Acting Chief Prosecutor of the State, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, has asked the chief prosecutors of the prosecution offices to maximally engage in increasing the efficiency in handling criminal cases and to have a more proactive role in the mandatory review of investigations every three (3) months, as defined by the provision of Article 154 of the Kosovo Criminal Procedure Code.

**The Acting Chief State Prosecutor is participating in the workshop for the presentation of the reform perspective of the prosecutorial system**

*Prishtina, June 27, 2024 –*

The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC) in cooperation with the OSCE in Kosovo, organized a two-day workshop in Tirana, which was attended by the Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Mr. Ardian Hajdaraj, Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, KPC members, OCSP prosecutors, chief prosecutors, KPCS General Director, IPCC Director, OSCE representatives and officials of the prosecutorial system administration.



The purpose of holding this workshop was to present the perspective of the prosecutorial system, especially with a special focus on the realization of gender equality and the integration of communities.

The first day session was addressed by KPC Chairman, Ardian Hajdaraj, Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Besim Kelmendi and the representative of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Mark Lasser, who stressed the great role and importance of implementing gender equality and integrating community members into the justice system. “We are aware that with a joint engagement in the justice system we can achieve sustainable results in the framework of achieving gender equality and integration of members of communities in Kosovo”, said Chairman Hajdaraj on this occasion.





Also in this workshop there were discussions on the challenges of integration of young people from the ranks of communities, as well as on the use of languages and the challenges of translation in court sessions, whereby the participants agreed to intensify joint engagements on these issues that were discussed for two days in a row, because there is a need of time to make further progress on the way forward.