

**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
MISSION IN KOSOVO**

**Pillar III (OSCE) Report 01/2006
On the Monitoring of the Assembly of Kosovo
24 December 2005 – 10 March 2006**

Highlights

- **Assembly elects new President of Kosovo after death of President Rugova**
- **Assembly elects new Prime Minister and Government after resignation of PM Kosumi**
- **New President of Assembly elected**
- **Assembly discusses Gërmia issue three months after ORA submitted request, issue sent back to Assembly Presidency for further examination**
- **Irregular procedure used to appoint members to Anti-Corruption Agency Council**
- **Draft law on war veterans adopted, no clarity as to when budgetary funds will be available for implementation**
- **PDK calls Minister of Public Services for interpellation, Minister rejects the motion, asserting that it is improperly formulated and not well justified**

1. Background

This forty-third monitoring report is drafted in accordance with the Terms of Reference for UNMIK Pillar III for Institution Building (OSCE) Monitoring of the Assembly of Kosovo dated 26 November 2002 and is based on compliance with the new Rules of Procedure adopted at the end of the plenary session on 20 May 2005.

During the reporting period, the Assembly held two regular plenary sessions, on 19-20 January and 14-15 February, and on 23 February, as well as six regular Presidency meetings, on 12 January, 7 February, 9 February, 20 February, 7 March, and 9 March. On 22 January, the Assembly held a commemorative plenary session in memory of President of Kosovo Ibrahim Rugova, who had passed away one day earlier. On 10 February, the Assembly held a special plenary session to elect a new President of Kosovo, Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu (LDK). The plenary session that began on 19 January was interrupted when President Rugova died on 21 January, continuing only on 14 February, after the official mourning period had ended and after the election of the new President of Kosovo. On 10 March, the Assembly held a special plenary session for the election of a new Prime Minister and cabinet and the replacement¹ of the President of the Assembly and a Member of the Assembly Presidency. All ten Committees and the Subcommittee on Human Rights, Gender Equality, Public Petitions and Claims held meetings during the reporting period.² Pillar III (OSCE) monitored the

¹ There was much disagreement among Members of the Assembly whether to refer to the “replacement” or the “dismissal” of the President of the Assembly. This report will use the word that appears in the official agenda of the plenary session: “replacement”.

² The Committee for Judicial, Legislative, and Constitutional Matters met on 29 December, 16 January, 8, 20 and 27 February, and 6 March, while the Committee for the Rights and Interests of the Communities and Returns met on 30 December, 9 and 16 January, 8 February, and 8 March. The Committee for Budget and Finance met on 29 December, 11 January, 7 February, 1, 2 and 7 March, while the Committee for Economy, Trade, Industry, Energy, Transport and Communications met on 12 January, 7, 21 and 28 February. The Committee for Health, Labour, Social Welfare and Missing Persons met on 28 December, 12 and 17 January, 13 and 22 February, and 2 March, while the Committee for Education, Science, Technology, Culture, Youth and Sports met on 30 January, 6, 7, 17, 20, 21 and 22 February. The

plenary sessions and the Presidency meetings, as well as 43 out of 50 Committee meetings and three public hearings.³

2. Overview

The 19-20 January/14-15 February plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo was chaired by President of the Assembly Nexhat Daci (LDK) and co-chaired by Member of the Presidency Mr. Naim Maloku (AAK).

- Eighty-eight, 73, 91, and 76 Members of the Assembly were present, respectively, on 19 and 20 January and 14 and 15 February.⁴
- Main agenda items of the 19-20 January/14-15 February plenary session:
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on the Health Inspectorate
(The draft law was approved with a majority of votes in favor and no votes in opposition.⁵)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Preschool Education
(The draft law was approved with a majority of votes in favor and no votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Mines and Minerals
(The draft law was approved with a majority of votes in favor and no votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Metrology
(The draft law was approved with a majority of votes in favor and 13 votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on RTK
(The draft law was approved with 73 votes in favor and four votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on the Bar Examination
(The draft law was approved with 79 votes in favor and two votes in opposition)
 - First reading of the Draft Law on Publishing Activities and Books
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 68 votes in favor and two votes in opposition.)
 - Report of the Committee on Judicial, Legislative and Constitutional Framework Matters regarding UNMIK comments on the Family Law

Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development, Environment and Spatial Planning met on 17 January, 7, 21 and 22 February, and 1 March, while the Committee for Emergency Preparedness met on 12 January and 22 February. The Committee for Public Services, Local Administration and Media met on 3 and 11 January, 6, 8, 17 and 24 February while the Sub-Committee for Human Rights, Gender Equality, Public Petitions and Claims met on 12 January and 27 February. The Committee for International Cooperation and European Integration met on 20 February. The Committee for Education, Science, Technology, Culture, Youth and Sports held a Public Hearing of the Draft Law on Institutions of Culture on 13 February, while the Committee for Judicial, Legislative, and Constitutional Matters held a Public Hearing of Draft Anti-Defamation Law on 28 February. The Committee for Economy, Trade, Industry, Energy, Transport and Communications held a Public Hearing of the Draft Law on Expropriation on 7 March.

³ The Committee for Judicial, Legislative, and Constitutional Matters on 29 December, 16 January, 8, 20 and 27 February, and 6 March; the Committee for the Rights and Interests of the Communities and Returns on 30 December and 8 March, 9 and 16 January, and 8 February; the Committee for Budget and Finance on 29 December, 11 January, and 7 February, and 1 and 2 March; the Committee for Economy, Trade, Industry, Energy, Transport and Communications on 12 January, 7 and 21 February; the Committee for Health, Labour, Social Welfare and Missing Persons on 28 December, 17 January, 13 and 22 February; The Committee for Education, Science, Technology, Culture, Youth and Sports on 30 January, 6, 7, 17, 20, 21 and 22 February; the Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development, Environment and Spatial Planning on 7 and 22 February; the Committee for Emergency Preparedness on 12 January and 22 February; the Committee for Public Services, Local Administration and Media on 3 and 11 January, and 6, 8, 17 and 24 February; the Sub-Committee for Human Rights, Gender Equality, Public Petitions and Claims on 12 January and 27 February; the Committee for International Cooperation and European Integration on 20 February; Public Hearing of the Draft Law on Institutions of Culture on 13 February; Public Hearing of Draft Anti-Defamation Law on 28 February; and Public Hearing of the Draft Law on Expropriation on 7 March.

⁴ These are the figures announced by the President of the Assembly at the beginning of the plenary session each day.

⁵ Unless otherwise indicated, the number of abstentions was not announced. Since the electronic voting equipment was used, the entire voting result was shown on the display screen at the front of the plenary hall, but the numbers are not visible from the observers' gallery in the back of the hall.

- (The recommendations contained in the report were adopted with 64 votes in favor and 13 votes in opposition. The law in its entirety, together with the recommended amendments, was adopted by the Assembly with 63 votes in favor and five votes in opposition.⁶)
- First reading of the Draft Law on Mediation
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 69 votes in favor and one vote in opposition.)
 - First reading of the Draft Law on Administrative Conflicts
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 65 votes in favor, two votes in opposition, and one abstention.)
 - First reading of the Draft Anti-Defamation Law
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 51 votes in favor, eight votes in opposition, and four abstentions.)
 - First reading of the Draft Law on Martyrs' Day
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 73 votes in favor.)
 - Debate according to the request of ORA Parliamentary Group⁷
 - Review of the proposal of the Government of Kosovo on appointments to the Independent Board of Complaints
(The candidates were endorsed with 51 votes in favor and 30 votes in opposition.)
 - Review of the proposal of the Government of Kosovo on appointments to the Public Procurement Agency
(The candidates were endorsed with 53 votes in favor and 28 votes in opposition.⁸)
 - Review of the proposal of the Government of Kosovo on appointments to the Energy Regulatory Board
(The candidates were endorsed with 59 votes in favor and 19 votes in opposition.)
 - Review of the proposal of the Government of Kosovo on appointments to the Anti-Corruption Agency Council
(Parliamentary group leaders agreed to postpone this item until the 23 February plenary session in order to allow time for parliamentary groups to reach an agreement on the allocation of the three Agency Council seats to be appointed by the Assembly.)
 - Review of the recommendation of the Budget Committee regarding the 2006 budget of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
(The recommendation was approved with 53 votes in favor and 31 votes in opposition.)
 - Response of Minister Melihate Tërmkollli to the interpellation motion of PDK parliamentary group
(See section entitled "Interpellation".)
 - Proposal of the agenda for the plenary session on 23 February 2006⁹

The 10 February special plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo was chaired by President of the Assembly Nexhat Daci (LDK), together with the rest of the Presidency of the Assembly.

- One hundred and ten Members of the Assembly were present at the 10 February plenary session.

⁶ Past instructions from UNMIK to amend laws that are already adopted by the Assembly but not yet promulgated have met with serious opposition by the Assembly, due to the lack of an appropriate procedure for adopting such changes. See Pillar III (OSCE) Reports 08/2003 and 09/2003.

⁷ ORA had requested a debate on the "Administrative-Protocol Center" in Gërmia Park and mismanagement of the Assembly budget. The subject of the debate was not indicated in the written agenda.

⁸ The Assembly included in its decision a remark that the second candidate on the list was not qualified for the position and should be replaced with a more qualified candidate. This conclusion was reached during the discussion that preceded the vote on the list of candidates.

⁹ When the plenary session began, on 19 January, the next plenary session was planned for 9 February. After the death of President Rugova and the subsequent fifteen-day mourning period, the session was interrupted until 14 February, and the next session was postponed until 23 February.

- Main agenda items of the 10 February plenary session:
 - Election of the President of Kosovo
(Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu (LDK) was elected President of Kosovo in the third round of voting with 80 votes in favor and twelve votes in opposition.)¹⁰

The 23 February plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo was chaired by President of the Assembly Nexhat Daci (LDK) and co-chaired by Member of the Presidency Mr. Gazmend Muhaxheri (ORA).

- Ninety-one Members of the Assembly were present at the 23 February plenary session.¹¹
- Main agenda items of the 23 February plenary session:
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Vocational Education and Training
(The draft law was approved with 74 votes in favor and six votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Cultural Heritage
(The draft law was withdrawn from the agenda at the written request of Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on the Establishment of the Kosovo Judicial Institute
(The draft law was approved with 74 votes in favor and three votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Emergency Health Care
(The draft law was approved with 80 votes in favor and two votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Trademarks
(The draft law was approved with 76 votes in favor and five votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Food
(The draft law was withdrawn from the agenda in order to allow the relevant committees more time to review it.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on the Rights of KLA War Veterans, Martyrs' Families, and Civil Victims of the War
(The draft law was approved with 80 votes in favor and two votes in opposition.)
 - Review of the Recommendation of the Committee on Agricultural, Forestry, Rural Development, Environment, and Spatial Planning regarding the Draft Law on Housing
(The Committee's recommendation to return the draft law to the Government for further work was approved with 68 votes in favor and three votes in opposition.)
 - First reading of the Draft Law on the Publication of School Textbooks, Educational Teaching Resources, Reading Materials, and Pedagogical Documentation
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 72 votes in favor and three votes in opposition.)
 - First reading of the Draft Law on Natural Disasters and Other Disasters
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 77 votes in favor and two votes in opposition.)
 - Review of the proposal of appointments to the Anti-Corruption Agency Council
(The first three Assembly candidates voted upon were announced to have been elected. The entire list of candidates was endorsed with 44 votes in favor and 35 votes in opposition. See the second item under "Voting Process".)
 - Proposal of the Presidency of the Assembly for the agenda of the 16 March plenary session

The 10 March special plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo was chaired first by Member of the Presidency Naim Maloku (AAK), and later by newly-elected President of the Assembly Kolë Berisha (LDK).

- One hundred and seven Members of the Assembly were present at the 10 March plenary session.

¹⁰ Seventeen ballots were declared "invalid": these were most likely abstentions.

¹¹ This is the figure announced by the President of the Assembly at the beginning of the plenary session.

- Main agenda items of the 10 March plenary session:
 - Review of the proposal of the LDK parliamentary group on replacing Member of the Presidency and President of the Assembly Nexhat Daci with Mr. Kolë Berisha, and replacing Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu by Mr. Sabri Hamiti as Member of the Presidency (The replacements were made with one single vote, in which a majority of Members voted in favor, two voted in opposition, and four abstained.)
 - Election of the Prime Minister and Government of Kosovo (New Prime Minister Agim Çeku (AAK) and the Government were elected with 65 votes in favor, 33 votes in opposition, and five abstentions.)

3. Parliamentary Practices and Proceedings of Assembly Sessions

Agenda

- At the end of the 19-20 January/14-15 February plenary session, the agenda of the 23 February plenary session was presented for approval. The President of the Assembly added that Mr. Emrush Xhemajli (LPK) had submitted a request for the Assembly to be informed about the work of the Kosovo delegation to decentralization talks at an upcoming plenary session. The President of the Assembly responded that the request seemed quite reasonable. Both ORA and the Parliamentary Group for Integration attempted to propose agenda items verbally at that time, but the President of the Assembly did not allow the proposals to be made, arguing that they had not been submitted beforehand in writing.

At the beginning of the plenary session on 23 February, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) once more requested on behalf of his parliamentary group that the Assembly should begin to hold weekly plenary sessions, arguing that the pace at which the Assembly holds sessions does not allow it to keep up with vital current issues. He proposed that the Assembly should discuss two such issues – the privatization process and the recent international criticism of the PISG’s slow implementation of Standards – as urgent items that day. The President of the Assembly responded that the Presidency would review a plan for weekly plenary sessions at its next meeting, and that LDK also had many proposals for items of discussion at weekly sessions. He commented, however, that the issues of Standards and privatization were not so urgent that they needed to be voted upon immediately. Mr. Berat Luzha (PDK) reminded the Assembly that he had raised the issue of the blocked road to Skopje on 19 January, stressing that the Government had hired a small company without the capacity to clear the road. Mr. Luzha proposed that, since the road still hadn’t been opened after well over a month, the issue urgently needed to be discussed in the Assembly. The President of the Assembly responded that the Presidency had discussed the issue at its last meeting and shared Mr. Luzha’s concerns but that it would not be possible to take any decision on the issue based merely on concerns and without more information. He added that those responsible had explained the issue in the media, and that it was not for the Assembly to solve the issue.

Ms. Gjylnaze Sylja (AAK) stated that her parliamentary group supported the earlier proposal of Mr. Emrush Xhemajli for the Kosovo delegation to decentralization talks to report to the Assembly, and she proposed that a special plenary session treating this issue should be held before the 16 March plenary session. Ms. Teuta Sahatqija (ORA) expressed her parliamentary group’s support for the proposals of Mr. Krasniqi, Mr. Luzha, and Mr. Rrahmani.¹² Mr. Emrush Xhemajli stated that he supported the AAK and ORA statements, adding that it is in the interest of the delegation to discuss its work with the Assembly. Mr. Ramë Buja (PDK) spoke in favor of Mr. Luzha’s request to discuss the blocked road, pointing out that the relevant Minister was present and could be asked to provide information on why the road still had not been cleared. Mr. Buja added that other parliamentary groups had supported Mr. Krasniqi’s proposal and therefore proposed that the debates should be held at that session. The President of the

¹² See the second item under “Equal Access and Participation of Communities”.

Assembly countered that he had already responded to Mr. Krasniqi and had nothing further to add, and he disregarded the request to call the minister to provide information.

At the end of the 23 February plenary session, as the agenda for the next plenary session was being presented for approval, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) repeated his earlier request to discuss the issues of Standards implementation and privatization at a plenary session as soon as possible. The President of the Assembly recalled that the Assembly had already had a somewhat “unproductive” discussion of Standards implementation. He asked for the proposals to be submitted to the Presidency for a decision. Mr. Sabri Hamiti (LDK) stated that the PDK proposals were reasonable and added that Minister Dugolli had informed him during the break that he would be willing to respond to an interpellation on the issue of privatization. Mr. Krasniqi recalled that PDK had submitted two interpellation motions, to which the ministers in question did not respond.¹³ Mr. Hydajet Hyseni (PDK) stressed that the disregarding of parliamentary questions on the part of the Government sent a negative message about the ministers. Mr. Alush Gashi (LDK) stated that his parliamentary group was in favor of full transparency, and that the Government should therefore report to the Assembly on Standards implementation and on privatization. He requested that both topics be well prepared, with the provision of sufficient background material, and that the debates should be thorough.

In the above cases, plenary session agendas were presented to the Assembly for approval at the end of the previous plenary session, as required by Rule 23.1, in contrast to all plenary sessions for approximately the past two years. This represents a great improvement over previous sessions, for which agendas were made known only a few days in advance and rarely approved by the Assembly plenary.

Rule 29.1 provides that “[a]t any plenary session, any Member, in agreement with the President of the Assembly, may propose that the Assembly should immediately consider an urgent matter. If the President of the Assembly is satisfied that the matter merits the Assembly’s immediate attention, he/she shall permit the Member concerned to put his proposal to the Assembly, and then put it to a vote.” Under Rule 29.1, it was within the President of the Assembly’s discretion to decide that the proposed issues did not “merit the Assembly’s immediate attention.” Such an issue, however, may still be formally proposed to the Presidency, which, under Rule 6.5, must place it on the plenary agenda within three working weeks, provided that the motion is supported by at least six Members of the Assembly.

The abundance of additional topics proposed by parliamentary groups underscores the need to return to a weekly system of plenary sessions as soon as possible. Implementation of the Assembly Action Plan 2006 without further delay would be helpful in this regard.

Distribution of Documents

- The Draft Law on Mediation was distributed on 2 December 2005; the Draft Law on Administrative Conflicts was distributed on 12 December; and the Draft Anti-Defamation Law and Draft Law on Martyrs Day were distributed on 19 December. Thus, the draft laws were distributed, respectively, 30, 24 and 19 working days prior to their first reading on 20 January 2006 plenary session. The Draft Law on the Publication of School Texts, Education Means, School Reading Material and Pedagogic Documentation was distributed on 23 December 2005, and the Draft Law on Natural Disasters and Other Disasters was distributed on 29 December. Thus, the draft laws were distributed, respectively, 39 and 33 days prior to their first reading on 23 February plenary session.

Rule 35.1 requires that the first reading of the draft law shall take place no earlier than ten working days and no later than three working weeks from the day of its distribution. When the Assembly is holding plenary sessions only once per month, it is extremely difficult to schedule the first reading of each law no earlier than ten working days and no later than three working weeks from the day of its distribution, as required by the Assembly’s procedural rules. If, for

¹³ See the section entitled “Interpellation”, p. 13-14, also Pillar III (OSCE) Report 08/2005.

instance, a draft law is submitted to the Assembly and distributed during the third week of a month and the plenary session takes place, as stipulated in the Rules of Procedure, during the fourth week of a month, the draft law may not be considered in first reading during that same month, because Members of the Assembly would have not had ten working days to study the draft law prior to the first reading. If, then, the first reading is held during the fourth week of the next month, approximately five working weeks will have passed between the distribution of the draft law and its first reading, in violation of the Rules of Procedure. The maximum limit of three working weeks between distribution of a draft law and its first reading, which was stipulated by the Assembly itself when revising its Rules of Procedure, is feasible only if the Assembly is meeting in plenary session every week or at least every two weeks.

Debates

- On 14 February, at the continuation of the plenary session that began on 19 January, the President of the Assembly opened proceedings by announcing that the debate requested by ORA parliamentary group would be thorough and have no time limit. Ms. Teuta Sahatqija (ORA) stated that her parliamentary group's request, submitted on 7 November, was for a debate on *two* issues: the Administrative-Protocol Center in Gërmia *and* mismanagement of the Assembly budget, and stressed that Rule 23.5 allows more than one issue to be discussed at an extraordinary session.¹⁴ The President of the Assembly responded that the agenda had been approved in a timely manner and the debate would proceed accordingly. Mr. Gazmend Muhaxheri (ORA) was given the floor to open the debate and enumerated many issues that, according to him, raise questions about the legality of the Gërmia project, starting with an apparent lack of documentation of any official decision taken in the Assembly to build the Gërmia center, and including irregularities in the tendering process and granting of a construction permit. The President of the Assembly then called the Secretary of the Assembly, Mr. Isuf Demaj, to respond to the charges. Mr. Nazim Jashari (ORA) called out continuously for a couple of minutes that the Secretary of the Assembly should not be speaking before the Assembly at a plenary session, and the PDK parliamentary group abandoned the hall, followed by most members of ORA. Both parliamentary groups returned to the hall after Mr. Demaj's statement was finished. Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) later raised an objection that the Assembly should have been allowed to decide whether to allow the Secretary to speak at the session. The President of the Assembly responded that no provision of any legal document relating to the work of the Assembly forbids the Secretary from taking the floor. During the debate, Mr. Fadil Geci (LDK) made a series of criticisms and accusations against ORA and Mr. Vetton Surroi that were unrelated to the topic at hand and was not called to order by the President of the Assembly. *All Members who wished to participate in the debate were allowed to speak freely, which was in accordance with Rule 12, on the right of Assembly Members "to take part on an equal basis with other Members of the Assembly in all debates of the Assembly." The President of the Assembly did not prevent Members of opposition parties from making statements that were unfavorable to him, but similarly did not call to order Members such as Mr. Geci, who had "departed from the matter opened for discussion," as required by Rule 22.10. While the President of the Assembly chaired the debate in a fairly neutral manner, it nonetheless might have been more appropriate for him, as an interested party, to recuse himself from chairing that part of the session.*
In the absence of any provisions regulating the participation of civil servants in plenary sessions of the Assembly, the issue should have been put to the Presidency for discussion prior to the plenary debate. Rule 6.2 provides that the Presidency "shall ensure an agreement

¹⁴ "The Presidency shall, upon its own initiative or in response to a request by the Prime Minister or by one or more parliamentary groups representing not less than one-third, respectively 40 (forty) Members of the Assembly, convene the Assembly for an extraordinary session in order to deal with an urgent matter. The request shall state the matter or matters to be considered, and the reasons why they are considered urgent and important in such a way as to justify recalling the Assembly. In such cases, only the items of business that form the basis of the request shall be considered."

amongst the parliamentary groups on the form and duration of the debate on a particular item of business.”

Voting Process

- A quorum was present for all voting at the plenary sessions under review. *This was in compliance with Section 9.1.32 of the Constitutional Framework and Rule 31.1, which provide that a majority of the Members of the Assembly must be present in order for decisions to be taken.*
- During the debate on the Gërmia issue on 14 February, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi stated that PDK had long ago requested the formation of a parliamentary investigative committee to look into possible Government corruption and PDK likewise supported the formation of an investigative committee now to examine the Gërmia issue. The request to form an investigative committee was repeated by several other Members, including Mr. Hydajet Hyseni (PDK) and Mr. Ylber Hysa (ORA). In response to an assertion made by the Secretary of the Assembly that the Presidency had taken a decision on 6 May 2003 to build the center in Gërmia, Mr. Xhavit Haliti (PDK) and Mr. Hydajet Hyseni (PDK) countered that the issue had never been discussed by the Presidency. Ms. Gjylnaze Sylja (AAK) likewise stated that the Presidency was never consulted on the issue but added that the Assembly and SRSG had approved the budget and the Economic Fiscal Council had not intervened. She argued that financial oversight was severely lacking in the Assembly and proposed the establishment of an ad-hoc committee, made up of parliamentary group leaders, to recommend necessary reforms and monitor the functioning of the Assembly. During the debate, Mr. Ferid Agani (Group for Integration/PD) proposed that a break should be called in order to allow parliamentary group leaders an opportunity to consult with each other on the conclusion of the debate. Mr. Alush Gashi (LDK) and Mr. Sabri Hamiti (LDK) both proposed that the Presidency should be asked to look into the issue and report back to the Assembly. Mr. Veton Surroi (ORA) likewise called for a break for consultation among parliamentary group leaders. Over ORA’s loud objections, the Chairperson did not grant the request for a break but asked the Assembly to vote on the two proposals: a report by the Presidency to the Assembly or the formation of an investigative committee. The LDK proposal that the Presidency should report to the Assembly on the issue was approved with a majority of votes.

During the course of the Gërmia debate, three different recommendations for follow-up actions were made, one by ORA and PDK, one by AAK, and one by LDK. Elements of different proposals could have been combined to reach a consensus among parliamentary groups. ORA, as the parliamentary group having requested the debate on the Gërmia issue, should have been granted an opportunity for consultation among parliamentary group leaders, as requested by Mr. Surroi and the Group for Integration, before a vote was called. Instead, those requests were ignored and the Assembly was abruptly asked to vote between the LDK proposal and the ORA/PDK proposal. The AAK proposal was not put to the vote at all.

- At the 23 February plenary session, the President of the Assembly announced that five parliamentary groups had each nominated one representative, from which three should be elected, to join the Anti-Corruption Agency Council. The nominations were as follows: Mr. Sadudin Berisha (LDK), Mr. Gani Koci (PDK), Mr. Ymer Halimi (AAK), Mr. Saša Đokić (SDSKM)¹⁵, and Mr. Ferid Agani (Group for Integration). The President of the Assembly asked Ms. Nekibe Kelmendi (LDK) whether she, “as a lawyer”, had any recommendations on how to carry out the vote. Ms. Kelmendi responded that the candidates should be voted upon individually. The President of the Assembly called for a vote on Mr. Berisha, who received 56 votes in favor and 20 votes in opposition, and was declared to have been elected. Mr. Koci, who

¹⁵ SDSKM and SLKM have informally been grouped together as a parliamentary group, although it is not clear whether the entities have jointly declared themselves a parliamentary group. This possible discrepancy is irrelevant to the topic handled above, however, as nomination to the ACAC does not depend upon membership in a parliamentary group.

received 42 votes in favor and 37 votes in opposition, and Mr. Halimi, who received 61 votes in favor and 17 votes in opposition, were likewise declared to have been elected. The President of the Assembly then announced that the Assembly had elected its three representatives on the ACAC, without calling for a vote on the remaining two candidates. The declaration was met with loud murmurs from Assembly Members, in particular from ORA and the Group for Integration. Mr. Gjergj Dedaj (Group for Integration/PLK) stated that the Assembly should be allowed to vote on all five candidates, and that the three candidates receiving the most votes should be named to the ACAC, rather than discriminating against the remaining two candidates. After receiving procedural advice, the President of the Assembly stated that he “almost liked” Mr. Dedaj’s proposal but that he had been informed that the proposal was “pointless”. He then called on the Assembly to endorse the entire list of nine candidates, which was approved with 44 votes in favor and 35 votes in opposition.

The procedure used to elect the three representatives to the ACAC was highly irregular and arbitrary, favoring those candidates whose names were called first. It would have been entirely possible for Mr. Đokić or Mr. Agani to receive a majority of votes, possibly even more than other candidates who were declared elected. The Assembly should have been allowed to vote on all five candidates, with the three highest ranking candidates being named to the ACAC. Since neither the Constitutional Framework nor the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure contain explicit provisions on voting between a number of options, the Assembly should develop procedures for more complicated votes such as the case described above.

Legislative Process

- In its report on the Draft Law on the Rights of KLA War Veterans, Martyrs’ Families, and Civil Victims of the War, the Budget Committee recommended that the draft law should be implemented “only when sufficient budgetary funds are available from the Kosovo Consolidated Budget.” During the second reading of the draft law, Ms. Flora Brovina (PDK) requested a clarification of budgetary implications from the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, who, according to her, had informed the Committee on Health, Labor, and Social Welfare that there *were* sufficient funds to implement the law. The Minister did not request the floor, nor did the President of the Assembly ask him to respond to Ms. Brovina’s question. Mr. Naser Osmani (LDK), chair of the Budget Committee, elaborated on his committee’s recommendation and proposed that a new provision should be incorporated into the section on “Final and Transitional Provisions”, stipulating that the law would enter into force “for instance in 2009.” Minister of Finance and Economy Haki Shatri supported the proposal of the Budget Committee and stated that it should be incorporated into Article 20 (“This law shall enter into force after its adoption by the Assembly of Kosovo and promulgation by the SRSG.”) Minister Shatri added that the Kosovo Consolidated Budget for 2006 had already been adopted and did not include funding for the draft law in question. The President of the Assembly responded that it was not necessary to debate the draft law further and that “through debates, the draft law has already been delayed for three years.” He stressed that Kosovo institutions “should do their best to secure funding for implementation of the law, even if it is only a small amount,” and added that the Assembly of Kosovo should fulfill its moral obligation of adopting the law that day.

The discussion described above indicates that there was clearly a need for more consultation between the Assembly and the Government prior to adoption of the law.

Election of the President of Kosovo

- A special plenary session was held on 10 February to elect a new President of Kosovo after the death of President Ibrahim Rugova on 21 January. The session was opened with brief introductory remarks by the President of the Assembly Nexhat Daci (LDK), who fondly remembered President Rugova and remarked that the election of a new President of Kosovo was a nonpartisan act in the interest of all Kosovans, and that the new President would be a unifying personality. Mr. Kolë Berisha, vice-president of LDK, was asked to present LDK’s candidate

for President, Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu. After paying tribute to the late Mr. Rugova, Mr. Berisha nominated Mr. Sejdiu and gave a description of his political activities and qualifications for the position. Mr. Hashim Thaçi was then given the floor, “as president of a party that holds thirty seats in the Assembly.”¹⁶ Mr. Thaçi thanked those present for their concern that he might not be able to be present at this momentous plenary session¹⁷ and delivered a speech that made references to the supposed irresponsibility of the current governing coalition but stressed that PDK was going to “act positively” by participating in the vote. In the first two rounds of voting, Mr. Sejdiu received, respectively, 78 and 77 votes in favour. In the third round of voting, when Mr. Sejdiu needed only 61 votes to be elected President, he then received 80 votes, the precise amount needed to be elected in the first two rounds. In the third round of voting, there were twelve votes in opposition and 17 “invalid” ballots, presumably abstentions. The President of the Assembly declared that Mr. Sejdiu had been elected the new President of Kosovo, and President Sejdiu gave a brief inaugural address, in which he thanked the Assembly for honoring him by electing him to the post. President Sejdiu paid tribute to his predecessor, the late President Rugova, and emphasized his duty as President to foster political and interethnic unity.

Section 9.2.8 of the Constitutional Framework requires that “[t]he President of Kosovo shall be elected by the Assembly by secret ballot . . . The Assembly shall elect the President of Kosovo by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Assembly. If after two ballots a two-thirds majority is not obtained, in the following ballots a majority of the votes of all members of the Assembly shall be required for election.” The same requirements are contained in Rules 16.3-5. The voting was held in full conformity with the Constitutional Framework and the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure. Under Section 9.2.3 of the Constitutional Framework, “[t]he mandate of the President of Kosovo shall be three years.”

Replacement of the President of the Assembly and Member of the Presidency

- During the first part of the 10 March plenary session, the Assembly reviewed the LDK proposal to replace Mr. Nexhat Daci and Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu, respectively, as President of the Assembly and Member of the Presidency, with Mr. Kolë Berisha and Mr. Sabri Hamiti. Mr. Alush Gashi (LDK) introduced the proposal, stating that Mr. Sejdiu had withdrawn from the Assembly when he was elected President of Kosovo and that the proposal to replace Mr. Daci and Mr. Sejdiu had the “unanimous support” of the LDK parliamentary group. Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) read aloud Rules 5.3 and 5.5¹⁸ and asked whether the Assembly should respect the Rules or disregard them. In response to Mr. Krasniqi having read the provision on the dismissal of the President of the Assembly, the Chairperson stated that the Assembly was being asked to vote on a

¹⁶ The justification for allowing only LDK and PDK to speak before the vote stems from a mistranslation of Section 9.2.8 of the Constitutional Framework in Albanian. The relevant provision states that “A nomination for the post of President of Kosovo shall require the support of the party having the largest number of seats in the Assembly or of at least 25 members” (i.e. a member of a smaller party could be nominated for President, provided that he or she has the support of at least 25 Assembly Members). The Albanian translation implies that any candidate must have the support of *a party having at least 25 Members* (of the Assembly). Thus, LDK and PDK were given the floor under the assumption that they were the only two parties who could propose candidates for president. The discrepancy in translation was irrelevant in this case, since no counter-candidates were proposed. The mistranslation is *not* reflected in the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure, which correctly state in the Albanian translation that “a nomination for the post of the President of Kosovo shall require the support of the party having the largest number of seats in the Assembly, *or of at least twenty-five deputies*” (Rule 16.2).

¹⁷ The election of the President of Kosovo, originally expected to take place on 9 February, was postponed first to 13 February and then to 10 February after much internal discussion, at the request of PDK, with the justification that Mr. Thaçi was on an official trip outside of Kosovo and needed to be present for the election.

¹⁸ The President of the Assembly may submit his/her resignation to the Assembly. The written statement of resignation shall be submitted in advance to the Presidency of the Assembly. Upon the approval of the resignation the political party or the coalition that appointed the former President of the Assembly, shall propose a new candidate for President pursuant to rule 4 of these Rules of procedures (5.3). The dismissal of the President or a member of the Presidency of the Assembly is conducted at the proposal the political party or a parliamentary group which has appointed him/her and in accordance with the procedure for their appointment (5.5).

replacement, not a dismissal. Mr. Hajredin Kuçi (PDK) questioned why the word “replacement” was being used, since the Rules of Procedure mention only a “resignation” or “dismissal”. The LDK proposal was endorsed with a majority of votes in favor, two votes in opposition, and four abstentions. Upon being named President of the Assembly, Mr. Berisha delivered a brief acceptance speech, in which he thanked Mr. Daci for his work until now and stressed the importance of non-partisan cooperation in the Assembly.

The Constitutional Framework does not regulate the dismissal or replacement of the President of the Assembly or Members of the Presidency, nor did the first two versions of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure. The Assembly therefore included provisions, when revising its procedural rules in May 2005, as follows: “The President of the Assembly may submit his/her resignation to the Assembly. The written statement of resignation shall be submitted in advance to the Presidency of the Assembly. Upon the approval of the resignation, the political party or the coalition that appointed the former President of the Assembly shall propose a new candidate for President pursuant to rule 4 of these Rules of Procedure. The same procedure applies in the case of resignation of any of the members of the Presidency. The dismissal of the President or a member of the Presidency of the Assembly is conducted at the proposal of the political party or a parliamentary group which has appointed him/her and in accordance with the procedure for their appointment” (Rules 5.3-5.5). Rule 4, as well as Sections 9.1.7-8 of the Constitutional Framework, describe a procedure for the initial appointment of the President of the Assembly and entire Assembly Presidency at the inaugural plenary session, whereby each member is appointed by his or her corresponding party, coalition, or ethnic community/communities, and then the entire Presidency, including the President of the Assembly, is endorsed by one formal vote of the Assembly, by a simple majority. By implication, the “dismissal” or “replacement” of the President of the Assembly and/or a Member of the Presidency is proposed by the corresponding group and formally endorsed by a simple majority of Assembly members present and voting. It likewise follows that the dismissal or replacement of more than one Member of the Presidency – or, more specifically, in this case, the President of the Assembly and one additional Member of the Presidency – may be endorsed in one single vote. The voting on the replacement of the President of the Assembly and Member of the Presidency at the 10 March was carried out in compliance with the Rules.

Election of new Prime Minister and Government

- During the second part of the 10 March plenary session, newly-elected President of the Assembly Kolë Berisha gave the floor to President of Kosovo Fatmir Sejdiu. Mr. Sejdiu formally proposed to the Assembly Mr. Agim Çeku as Prime Minister, and Mr. Çeku presented his list of proposed ministers and deputy ministers. The President of the Assembly announced that the Assembly would have an opportunity to debate the proposed new Government before voting on it. Approximately 25 Members of the Assembly, mostly representing parties in the opposition, spoke during the more than three-hour long debate. Representatives of the governing coalition declared their support for Mr. Çeku and his cabinet, while opposition representatives expressed skepticism that the new Government, with minimal changes in the cabinet beyond the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, would perform better than the previous Government. Many opposition members focused on the alleged corruption and incompetence within the cabinet, and others criticized Mr. Çeku for having “abandoned his mission to build an army for Kosovo.” Mr. Sokol Bashota (PDK) argued that Mr. Çeku, “in his short time in the KLA, didn’t fight in any of the most glorious battles.” Ms. Selvije Halimi (PDK) stated that, at this time when Kosovo’s status is being determined, the coalition should think seriously about “what kind of Prime Minister it wants to offer – a real Kosovan Prime Minister or one with dual citizenship.” Mr. Hajredin Hyseni (PDK) asserted that “the previous Government was the most incompetent Government in the region, but at least the Prime Minister spoke and thought in Albanian at home . . . The [proposed] Prime Minister is experimenting in Kosovo, while his family is in another country.” Mr. Nazim Jashari (ORA)

condemned the use of personal insults and stressed that in the Assembly, only an individual's *work* should be subject to criticism. After the debate had been going on for some time, Mr. Fetah Berisha (LDK) raised an objection that a *vote*, not a *debate*, on the Government was foreseen on the plenary session agenda. The President of the Assembly responded that Members of the Assembly have a right to debate. Mr. Sabri Hamiti (LDK) remarked, in response to the heavy criticism directed against the Government, that the Assembly had the authority to dismiss the Government if necessary, and that if the Assembly did not carry out its constitutional duty of executive oversight, all of the criticism expressed at that session was meaningless.

During the debate, Mr. Veton Surroi (ORA) and Mr. Ferid Agani (Integration/PD) both expressed disappointment that Mr. Çeku had not presented a Government program to the Assembly. Mr. Agani stated that his parliamentary group had planned to base their decision on the contents of the program that was presented, and he proposed that the voting on the Government should be delayed until a Government program was made available to the Assembly. Mr. Agani further proposed that the Government should be voted upon by secret ballot, a proposal later echoed by Mr. Gjergj Dedaj (Integration/PLK) and Mr. Ramë Buja (PDK). Ms. Teuta Sahatqija (ORA) likewise stressed that the Integration proposal should be put to a vote. Mr. Alush Gashi (LDK) countered that the Government had always been voted upon openly in the past. The President of the Assembly called for a vote on the Integration proposal to conduct the Government by secret ballot; the proposal was defeated with 64 votes in opposition, 39 votes in favor, and one abstention. The President of the Assembly then called for a vote by show of hands on the proposed Government, which was approved by the Assembly with 65 votes in favor, 33 votes in opposition, and five abstentions. The new Prime Minister of Kosovo Agim Çeku then delivered an inaugural speech, in which he named Standards implementation, rule of law, education, health, and employment among priorities for his Government. Prime Minister Çeku emphasized that “the time of hatred and discrimination must belong to the past” and, stating that he wished to demonstrate that he will be a Prime Minister for *all* Kosovans, delivered a portion of his speech in Serbian.

The Constitutional Framework, Section 9.3.8, provides that “[f]ollowing Assembly elections, or if the Prime Minister resigns or his office becomes vacant for another reason, the President of Kosovo shall, following consultations with the parties, coalitions or groups represented in the Assembly, propose to the Assembly a candidate for Prime Minister. The proposed candidate shall present a list of proposed Ministers to the Assembly. The Prime Minister shall be elected together with the Ministers by a majority of the members of the Assembly.” Thus, 61 votes or more are needed in order to elect the Government. Rule 18.3 provides that “[t]he Government of Kosovo, consisting of the candidate for Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the candidates for Ministers and Deputy Ministers, is elected where the candidates obtain the votes of a majority of the Members of the Assembly. The Assembly shall decide on the voting method for the election of the Government.” The procedure that was followed – calling a vote on which voting method to use and deciding, by majority vote, to vote by show of hands – was in compliance with the Constitutional Framework and the Rules of Procedure.

Rule 22.10 stipulates that Members shall not use unparliamentary language, which is defined as “offensive, defamatory, or threatening; personal attacks or insults; obscene language; or conducive to inter-community violence.” Rule 22.11 stipulates that “[t]he President of the Assembly may direct a Member of the Assembly or Minister who has, in his or her opinion, used non-parliamentary language, to withdraw such words or, if necessary, take action in accordance with paragraph 13 of this rule.”¹⁹ Situations such as the above may be appropriate for intervention by the President of the Assembly.

¹⁹ Rule 22.13 reads: “In case of grave disorder arising in the Assembly, the President of the Assembly may adjourn the session forthwith, or may suspend it for a specified time.”

Interpellation

- On 28 December, Minister of Public Services Melihate Tërmkolli (LDK) sent to the Presidency of the Assembly a response to the interpellation submitted by PDK.²⁰ In her response, Minister Tërmkolli argued that the question “What has happened in the Ministry of Public Services since Ms. Tërmkolli became Minister?” was very general and was “not a concise formulation of the issue that could be a subject of interpellation.” She then listed several important accomplishments of the Ministry over the last year. Minister Tërmkolli continued in her response that she is always ready to report before the Assembly and its committees, in accordance with the Rules, but she argued that the interpellation was not drafted according to the Rules of Procedure. In addition to commenting on the formulation of the question, she asserted that the conclusion proposed in the interpellation motion – the dismissal of Minister Tërmkolli by the Assembly – was in contradiction with the Constitutional Framework and the Rules of Procedure. Minister Tërmkolli argued further that no proper justification was given for the accusations contained in the interpellation motion. She concluded in her response that the interpellation did not have any basis for review and therefore “must be refused.”

The response of Minister Tërmkolli was included on the agenda of the 19-20 January/14-15 February plenary session. In introducing the agenda item, the President of the Assembly stated that all Members had received the Minister’s written response and that there was probably no need for debate, “unless anyone insists.” Mr. Ramë Buja (PDK) stated that PDK had not requested a written response or a lecture about how to formulate an interpellation, but that Minister Tërmkolli should respond to the interpellation verbally before the Assembly and, if she so wished, challenge the assertions contained in it.²¹ Mr. Xhevat Bislimi (PDK) followed with a question about the cancellation of the contract for the renovation of the “Rilindja” media building. The President of the Assembly stated that he had not opened a debate. He added that the Presidency intended, in the future, to dedicate the first hour of each plenary session to questions for the Government, implying that Minister Tërmkolli could be called at a later date by any PDK member to answer questions about the work of her ministry. Mr. Xhavit Haliti (PDK) emphasized that the Kosovo institutions had pledged to fulfill Standards, such as functioning democratic institutions, and therefore asked that the Government should discontinue its practice of disregarding interpellations.²² The President of the Assembly responded that if PDK was dissatisfied, they could address a procedural motion to the Committee on Judicial, Legislative and Constitutional Framework Matters.

Rule 25.3 stipulates, as asserted by Minister Tërmkolli, that an interpellation motion shall include “a concise formulation of the issue dealt with by the interpellation”, along with “the suggested conclusion and justification, the full name of the Member who brought the interpellation before the Assembly, and the signatures of the Members supporting the interpellation.” Under Rule 25.4, “[t]he interpellation is put forward to the Presidency of the Assembly. As soon as the text of the interpellation is received, the Presidency of the Assembly shall submit it to the Government, which is obliged to review it within fifteen (15) days.” Rule 25.5 provides that “[t]he interpellation shall be included in the agenda within ten (10) days of receipt of the answer by the Government . . . The Assembly cannot reject the inclusion of the

²⁰ On 25 October, PDK submitted an interpellation motion, including signatures of its Members, calling on Minister of Public Services Melihate Tërmkolli (LDK) to respond to allegations of violations of the Law on Public Financial Management, the Law on Public Procurement, and UNMIK Regulation 2001/36 on the Kosovo Civil Service. The main “theme” of the interpellation was: “What has happened in the Ministry of Public Services since Ms. Tërmkolli became Minister?” The interpellation motion charged that under her leadership, there had been a “massive dismissal of civil servants, always with political motivations.” The proposed conclusion contained in the interpellation was that the Assembly should dismiss Minister Tërmkolli. Due to delays in the Assembly, the interpellation motion was sent to Minister Tërmkolli only in December. See Pillar III (OSCE) Reports 09/2005 and 10/2005 on the Monitoring of the Assembly of Kosovo.

²¹ Minister Tërmkolli was present at the plenary session throughout the discussion of the interpellation motion but the President of the Assembly did not ask her to speak.

²² See Pillar III (OSCE) Report 08/2005 on the Monitoring of the Assembly of Kosovo.

review of interpellation in the agenda, with the exception of cases when it does not meet the formal conditions stipulated in paragraph 3 of this rule.”

Neither the Assembly’s procedural rules nor the Government’s procedural rules²³ grant the Government a role in determining whether the interpellation has been formulated in accordance with Rule 25.3. Similarly, the Assembly Presidency is required by Rule 25.4 to forward the interpellation motion to the Government, with no authority to block the motion on the basis that it is incorrectly formulated. Only the full Assembly can make such a determination, as stipulated in Rule 25.5. This same rule requires that the interpellation shall be included in the plenary session agenda “within ten (10) days of receipt of the answer by the Government,” regardless of the content of the Government’s response. In the future, parliamentary groups submitting interpellation motions may wish to consult closely with the Assembly’s Department of Legal and Procedural Support, in order to avoid cases in which an improperly formulated interpellation motion proceeds through the Assembly Presidency and the Government, only to be rejected by the Assembly from inclusion in the plenary agenda at a later date.

Under Rules 25.6-8, a “representative of those presenting an interpellation has the right to argue in favor of the request at the beginning of the debate with regard to the request . . . The Prime Minister or the minister to whom the request is addressed is obliged to present and argue the opinion of the Government regarding the issue raised by the interpellation . . . Members have the right to debate the issue raised by interpellation in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.” The Assembly did not reject the inclusion of the interpellation motion in the plenary session agenda. Therefore, the Minister²⁴ should have been instructed to present her arguments verbally before the Assembly, and the Assembly should have been given the opportunity to debate the issue.

4. Equal Access and Participation of Communities

- During the first reading of the Draft Anti-Defamation Law on 20 January, Mr. Džezair Murati (6+/Vakat) remarked that “not a single representative of other communities” was included in the working group that drafted the law and added that his parliamentary group had requested several times for representation in the Government working groups. Ms. Nuran Malta (6+/KDTP) likewise commented on the importance of including representatives of other communities during the first reading of the Draft Law on the Publication of School Textbooks, Educational Teaching Resources, Reading Materials, and Pedagogical Documentation on 23 February. *Similar objections have been raised on numerous occasions in the Assembly.²⁵ On 8 April 2005, the Prime Minister issued a “Decision on the Inclusion of Experts in Working Groups for Drafting and Evaluating Draft Laws,” which provides that the Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister must include representatives of minority communities in working groups drafting legislation that is “relevant to national minorities or to their interests”, but it is not clear from the text on what basis it is determined which draft laws are relevant to community interests.²⁶*
- At the 23 February plenary session, Mr. Sabit Rrahmani (Integration/PDAK) informed the Assembly that he had spoken to inhabitants of the lead-contaminated camps in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, who were being asked to move to another camp nearby and expressed their concern that it would be equally contaminated. Mr. Rrahmani requested that, at the next

²³ Article 72 of the Government’s Rules of Procedure provides that “[w]henver the Assembly debates a vote of confidence or no-confidence in the Government, proposals for the appointment or dismissal of Ministers or an interpellation for the work of the Government, the Government shall be represented in the Assembly by the Prime Minister.” The Government’s procedural rules make no further mention of interpellations.

²⁴ Or the Prime Minister, as stipulated in the Government’s Rules of Procedure (see footnote 23).

²⁵ See Pillar III (OSCE) Reports 02/2004, 01/2005, and 10/2005 on the Monitoring of the Assembly of Kosovo.

²⁶ Decision No. 041/2005, 08 April 2005

plenary session, a representative of the Government should present the reasons why the camp inhabitants were being asked to move.

The request, presented verbally at the plenary session, should be followed up with a formal question to a particular Minister for oral answer, in accordance with Rule 26.

5. Access

During the reporting period, Pillar III (OSCE) received access to the plenary sessions, regular Presidency meetings, and Committee meetings. Pillar III (OSCE) also received copies of documents considered by the Assembly and transcripts of prior plenary sessions.

6. Transparency

Radio Television Kosovo (RTK) provided coverage of the plenary sessions under review. On 14 February, the second half of the plenary session was not broadcast live but broadcast later that night, due to afternoon coverage of the UN Security Council meeting.

Members of the public and institutional monitors were granted admission to the plenary sessions. The Assembly of Kosovo has a website (www.kuvendikosoves.org, www.skupstinakosova.org, www.assemblyofkosovo.org) containing biographical details of Members of the Assembly, information about the structure and functioning of the Assembly, copies of laws and resolutions adopted by the Assembly, along with other information, in Albanian, Serbian, and English.

ENDS.