

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

**Pillar III (OSCE) Report 03/2008
On the Monitoring of the Assembly of Kosovo
1 April 2008 – 14 June 2008**

Highlights

- **Assembly adopts the constitution and anthem of Kosovo**
- **President of Kosovo addresses the Assembly**
- **Assembly debates on the government's program for 2008-2011**
- **Assembly starts publishing records of electronic votes on its website**
- **Government fails to attend plenary sessions and answer parliamentary questions**
- **Approximately 20% of Committee meetings failed due to lack of quorum**

1. Background

This fifty-seventh 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 Rules of Procedure adopted at the plenary session on 20 May 2005, as amended at the plenary session on 1-2 June 2006 and 18 September 2007 plenary session.

Pillar III (OSCE) monitored two extraordinary sessions held on 9 April and 11 June and nine regular plenary sessions, on 4 April; on 17 April; on 18 and 21 April; on 29 April; on 16 May; on 20, 21 and 23 May; on 2 June; on 4 and 5 June; and on 12 and 13 June as well as eight Presidency meetings, on 1 April, 8 April, 15 April, 22 April, 29 April, 12 May, 19 May and 10 June. Pillar III (OSCE) monitored 51 out of 70 committee meetings and one public hearing.

2. Overview

The 4 April plenary session was chaired by the President of the Assembly Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) and Member of the Presidency Naim Maloku (AAK).

- Ninety-five Members of the Assembly were present at the 4 April plenary session.
- **Main agenda items of the 4 April plenary session:**
 - Questions to the government for Oral Answer
 - First reading of the Draft Law on Stamps of the Institutions of Kosovo (The draft law was endorsed in principle with 70 votes in favour and one vote in opposition.)
 - First reading of the Draft Law on Private Security (The draft law was endorsed in principle with 82 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Draft Law on Amending the Provisional Criminal Code (The draft law was approved with 69 votes in favour and two votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading on Amending the Law on Farmers Cooperatives (The draft law was approved with 78 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)

The 9 April extraordinary plenary session was chaired by the President of the Assembly Jakup Krasniqi (PDK).

- One-hundred and seven Members of the Assembly were present at the 9 April extraordinary plenary session.
- Main agenda items of the 9 April extraordinary plenary session:
 - Adoption of the constitution of Kosovo
(The constitution was adopted by acclamation. See below the section entitled “Voting Process” for more details.)

The 17 April plenary session was chaired by the President of the Assembly Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) and by Member of the Presidency Mr. Eqrem Kryeziu (LDK).

- Ninety-seven Members of the Assembly were present at the 17 April plenary session.
- Main agenda items of the 17 April plenary session:
 - Questions to the government for Oral Answer
 - First reading of the Draft Law on Sponsorship in Culture, Youth and Sports
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 61 votes in favour and three votes in opposition.)
 - First reading of the Draft Law on National Ensemble “Shota” and other ensembles
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 51 votes in favour, one vote in opposition and ten abstentions.)
 - First reading of the Draft Law on Mediation
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 56 votes in favour and three votes in opposition.)
 - Replacement of the SLS member in the Committee for Foreign Affairs

The 18 and 21 April plenary session was chaired by the President of the Assembly Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) and by Member of the Presidency Mr. Ibrahim Gashi (AKR).

- One-hundred and eight and sixty-four Members of the Assembly were present, respectively, at the 18 and 21 April plenary session.
- Main agenda items of the 18 and 21 April plenary session:
 - Address of the President of Kosovo with regard to the general state of affairs in Kosovo
 - Government’s statement on its 100 days of work
(The Prime Minister delivered the statement.)
 - Debate on the government’s program for 2008-2011
(The Prime Minister presented the program, followed by statements of parliamentary group leaders, a plenary debate and ending statement of Prime Minister.)

The 29 April plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo was chaired by the President of the Assembly Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK).

- Eighty-eight Members of the Assembly were present at the 29 April plenary session.
- Main agenda items of the 29 April plenary session:
 - Questions to the government for Oral Answer
 - Second Reading of the Draft Law on Amending the Law 2002/9 on Labour Inspectorate
(The draft law was approved with 60 votes in favour and eight votes in opposition.)
 - Second Reading of the Draft Law on Amending the Law 2003/15 on Social Assistance Scheme
(The draft law was approved with 68 votes in favour and one vote in opposition.)

- Second Reading of the Draft Law on Accommodation Tax
(The draft law was approved with 69 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)
- Second Reading of the Draft Law on Amending the Law on Execution of Penal Sanctions
(The draft law was approved with 70 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)
- Second Reading of the Draft Law on Final Exam in Primary and Secondary Schools
(The draft law was approved with 69 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)
- Second Reading of the Draft Law on Declaration of Origin of Property of Senior Public Officials
(The draft law was approved with 71 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)
- Second Reading of the Draft Law on Amending the Provisional Criminal Procedure Code
(The draft law was approved with 62 votes in favour and five votes in opposition.)
- Replacement of AKR member in the Committee for Education, Science, Technology, Culture, Youth and Sports
(Replacement was endorsed with 56 votes in favour and three votes in opposition.)

The 16 May plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo was chaired by the President of the Assembly Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) and Member of the Presidency Mr. Slobodan Petrović (SLS).

- Eighty-two Members of the Assembly were present at the 16 May plenary session.
- Main agenda items of the 16 May plenary session:
 - Questions to the government for Oral Answer
 - First reading of the Draft Law on Amending the Law on Forests
(The draft law was rejected with ten votes in favour and 41 votes in opposition and was therefore returned to the government for further revision.)
 - First reading of the Draft Law on National Qualifications
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 50 votes in favour and seven votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Out-Contentious Procedure
(The draft law was approved with 60 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Executive Procedure
(The draft law was approved with 48 votes in favour and three votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Material Support to Families with Permanently Disabled Children
(The draft law was approved with 64 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)
 - Second reading of the Draft Law on Use of Civil Explosives
(The draft law was approved with 69 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)
 - Review of the Budget Committee recommendation to return the Draft law on Prevention of Money Laundering to the sponsor
(The recommendation was approved with 53 votes in favour and one vote in opposition. See below the second paragraph under “Legislative Process”.)
 - Review of the government’s proposal with regard to the appointment of a member to the Central Banking Authority Board
(The appointment was endorsed with 43 votes in favour and seven votes in opposition.)
 - Review of PDK, LDK and AKR parliamentary group proposals with regard to the appointment of members to the Anti-Corruption Agency Council
(The appointments were endorsed with 53 votes in favour and one vote in opposition.)

The plenary session held on 20, 21 and 23 May was chaired by the President of the Assembly Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) and Member of the Presidency Mr. Džezair Murati (7+/Vakat).

- Ninety-nine, one-hundred and one and ninety-four Members of the Assembly were present, respectively, at the 20, 21 and 23 May plenary session.

- Main agenda items of the plenary session held on 20, 21 and 23 May:
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Education in Municipalities
(The draft law was approved with 83 votes in favour and three votes in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Kosovo Intelligence Agency
(The draft law was approved with 92 votes in favour and six votes in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Kosovo Privatization Agency
(The draft law was approved with 75 votes in favour and seven votes in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Integrated Control of State Borders
(The draft law was approved with 91 votes in favour and four votes in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Asylum
(The draft law was approved with 87 votes in favour and six votes in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Official Holidays
(The draft law was approved with 46 votes in favour and 32 votes in opposition.¹)

The 2 June plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo was chaired by the President of the Assembly Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) and Member of the Presidency Sabri Hamiti (LDK).

- Eighty-seven Members of the Assembly were present at the 2 June plenary session.
- Main agenda items of the 2 June plenary session:
 - Questions to the government for Oral Answer
 - First Reading of the Draft Labour Law
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 49 votes in favour and seven votes in opposition.)
 - First Reading of the Draft Law on Official Statistics
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 63 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)
 - Second Reading of the Draft Law on Execution Procedure
(The draft law was approved with 68 votes in favour and no votes in opposition)
 - Review of the 2007 financial report of Kosovo Consolidated Budget
(The report was approved with 46 votes in favour and 13 votes in opposition.)
 - Review of the recommendation of the Committee for Legislation and Judiciary with regard to the appointment of Ombudsperson
(The item was removed from the agenda.)
 - Review of the government's proposal to declare the land alongside the highways Morinë/Morine-Merdarë/Merdare and Prishtinë/Priština-Hani i Elezit/Djeneral Janković as the zone of special public interest
(The government's proposal was approved with 60 votes in favour and one vote in opposition.)
 - Review of the proposal to issue a declaration against Carla Del Ponte's allegations regarding KLA
(The item was removed from the agenda.)
 - Review of the Anti-Corruption Agency 2007 annual report
(The report was debated and approved with 83 votes in favour and one vote in opposition.)

The plenary session held on 4 and 5 June was chaired by the President of the Assembly Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) and Member of the Presidency Eqrem Kryeziu (LDK).

- Eighty-four Members of the Assembly were present at the 4 and 5 June plenary session.

¹ The above-referenced laws were approved in two days according to the procedural motion passed by the Assembly at the 15 February plenary session. As noted in the previous report, the Constitutional Framework provides that all proposed laws having budgetary implications must be accompanied by financial statements. Therefore, the procedural motion waiving the requirement to provide these financial statements is not valid and such statements are required. See previous reports 01/2008 and 02/2008 for more details.

- Main agenda items of the plenary session held on 4 and 5 June:
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on General Elections
(The draft law was approved with 64 votes in favour and ten votes in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Municipal Elections
(The draft law was approved with 76 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Central Bank
(The draft law was approved with 79 votes in favour and one vote in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on the Office of Auditor-General
(The draft law was approved with 81 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Railways
(The draft law was approved with 81 votes in favour and no votes in opposition.)

The 11 June extraordinary plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo was chaired by the President of the Assembly Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK).

- Ninety-eight Members of the Assembly were present at the 11 June plenary session.
- Main agenda items of the 2 June plenary session:
 - Endorsement of the state anthem of Kosovo
(The anthem was adopted with 72 votes in favour, 15 votes in opposition and five abstentions.)

The plenary session held on 12 and 13 June was chaired by the President of the Assembly Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK) and Member of the Presidency Mr. Xhavit Haliti (PDK).

- Eighty-five and seventy-seven Members of the Assembly were present, respectively, at the 12 and 13 June plenary session.
- Main agenda items of the plenary session held on 12 and 13 June:
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Dissolution of Kosovo Protection Corps
(The draft law was approved with 56 votes in favour and three votes in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Service in Kosovo Security Force
(The draft law was approved with 71 votes in favour and one vote in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Amending UNMIK Regulation 2006/50 on Resolution of Claims Relating to Private Immovable Property, Including Agricultural and Commercial Property
(The draft law was approved with 71 votes in favour and one vote in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Amending UNMIK Regulation 2005/20 on Kosovo Pensions Trust
(The draft law was approved with 71 votes in favour and three votes in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Amending UNMIK Regulation 2005/2 on the Establishment of the Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals
(The draft law was approved with 66 votes in favour and one vote in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Amending UNMIK Regulation 2004/49 on Activities of Water, Wastewater and Waste Services Providers
(The draft law was approved with 70 votes in favour and one vote in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Amending UNMIK Regulation 2003/16 on the promulgation of Law on Telecommunication
(The draft law was approved with 37 votes in favour and 34 votes in opposition.)
 - First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Amending UNMIK Regulation 2004/9 on Energy Regulator
(The draft law was approved with 60 votes in favour and three votes in opposition.)

- First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Amending UNMIK Regulation 2008/13 on the approval of Kosovo Consolidated Budget and Authorised Expenditures for the period 1 January to 31 December 2008
(The draft law was approved with 59 votes in favour and one vote in opposition.)
- First and Second Readings of the Draft Law on Publicly Owned Enterprises
(The draft law was approved with 58 votes in favour and four votes in opposition.)

3. Parliamentary Practices and Proceedings of Assembly Sessions

Agenda

- At the beginning of the 17 April plenary session, Mr. Berat Luzha (PDK) *verbally* proposed to include in the agenda of that day's session a debate on former ICTY prosecutor Carla Del Ponte's allegations regarding KLA. At the same session, Mr. Fatmir Rexhepi (LDK) *verbally* proposed to include in the agenda a debate on the holding of general and municipal elections of Serbia on the territory of Kosovo. The President of the Assembly responded that Mr. Luzha's and Mr. Rexhepi's proposals could not be included in the agenda of that day's session and instructed them to submit their proposals in writing to the Table Office.
The Rule 23.1-2 provide that "[t]he Presidency shall prepare a draft Agenda for the upcoming Assembly session and make it immediately available to the Members of the Assembly. At the beginning of the session the draft Agenda shall be deemed approved, unless one or more parliamentary groups or six (6) Members of the Assembly propose in writing (emphasis added) to the President an amendment to the agenda, which should be put to a vote." Mr. Luzha and Mr. Rexhepi did not make their proposals in compliance with Rule 23. Therefore, the decision of the President of the Assembly not to call for a vote on the above-referenced proposals was in compliance with Rule 23.

Procedural motion

- At the 18 April plenary session, Ms. Gjylnaze Syla (AAK) stated that she wanted to move a procedural motion to adjourn the debate on the government's 100 days work report in accordance with Rule 30. Mr. Numan Balić (AAK/SDA) likewise proposed to adjourn the debate on the government's work report. Furthermore, Mr. Ibrahim Gashi (AKR) moved a procedural motion to adjourn the debate on government's 100 days work report with the justification that Members did not have sufficient time to prepare for the debate. The President of the Assembly however did not call for a vote on the procedural motion proposed by Members in question and proceeded with the debate.
Rule 30.1(a) and 30.2 provide that "[a]t any plenary session of the Assembly, a member is entitled to propose [a procedural motion] to . . . adjourn the debate . . . A motion to adjourn the debate shall require an immediate vote, without debate." The President of the Assembly was therefore obliged to call for a vote on the procedural motion proposed by Ms. Syla, Mr. Balić and Mr. Gashi.

Voting Process

- At the 9 April extraordinary plenary session, the Assembly adopted the constitution by acclamation. After the presentation of the constitution by the Deputy Prime Minister Hajredin Kuçi (PDK), the President of the Assembly called for a vote on the constitution and Members of the Assembly stood up and applauded. The President of the Assembly announced that the constitution was adopted by acclamation with the support of all Members present. However, several Members did not stand up.
At the 17 April plenary session, during the discussion of the minutes from the 9 April extraordinary session, the President of the Assembly stated that he was informed that some Members had not stood up during the acclamation vote of the constitution and asked those Members to declare whether they were in favor, against or abstained from the constitution in order to correct the minutes. Ms. Besa Gaxherri (LDD) remarked that the Rules of Procedure do

not recognise voting by acclamation and added that the President of the Assembly had therefore violated the Rules of Procedure by allowing the constitution to be adopted by acclamation. Mr. Numan Balić (AAK/SDA) likewise stated that the President of the Assembly had violated the Rules of Procedure by allowing the acclamation vote and added that nine Members had not stood up. Ms. Melihate Termkolli (LDK) argued that the President of the Assembly had offended the Members by not asking them to declare their vote at the 9 April session and doing so at a later session. The President of the Assembly reiterated that those Members who did not agree with the acclamation vote could declare if they were against or abstained from the constitution in order to correct the minutes. After some more discussion, the President of the Assembly called for a vote on the approval of the minutes from the 9 April extraordinary session, which were approved with a majority of votes in favour, three votes in opposition and nine abstentions.

Rule 31.4 provides that voting should be conducted by one of following ways: (a) a simple yes or no by show of hands, (b) secret ballot, or (c) recorded vote, which includes electronic voting and roll-call of each member. The Rules of Procedure do not mention voting by acclamation. Therefore, the President of the Assembly should have used for the adoption of the constitution one of the voting methods as described by Rule 31.4, which would also avoid discontent among the Members of the Assembly.

- At the 4 April plenary session, after the vote in principle of the Draft Law on Private Security, the Chairperson Naim Maloku (AAK) stated that there was a discrepancy between the number of Members physically present in the plenary hall and the number of electronically registered votes. He stated that 81 Members were physically present in the hall and 82 votes were registered electronically adding that “it seems that somebody has voted for one Member who is absent in the hall, which is not allowed by the Rules of Procedure.” Nevertheless, he announced that the Draft Law in question was endorsed in principle with 82 votes in favour and no votes in opposition according to the registered vote.

During previous legislature, monitoring reports noticed a couple of cases when a Member of the Assembly had voted on his/her device, as well as the device of his/her neighbour, who had temporarily left the plenary hall, but the votes in question were aborted. The Chairperson of the 4 April plenary session should have also aborted the voting and repeated it since it seemed that a Member had voted on the device of another Member, who was not present in the plenary hall at that moment. The Assembly must eliminate such opportunities for manipulation and inaccuracy – if necessary through the introduction of new provisions in the new Assembly’s procedural rules – in order to maintain the integrity of the voting process.

Distribution of Draft Legislation

- The Draft Law on Stamps of the Institutions of Kosovo and the Draft Law on Private Security were distributed to Members of the Assembly on 21 March. Thus, the draft laws were distributed eight working days prior to their first reading at the 4 April plenary session. The Draft Law on Sponsorship in Culture, Youth and Sports, the Draft Law on National Ensemble “Shota” and other ensembles and the Draft Law on Mediation were distributed on 1 April. Thus, the draft laws were distributed 11 working days prior to their first reading at the 17 April plenary session. The Draft Law on Amending the Law on Forests was distributed on 18 April, while the Draft Law on National Qualifications was distributed on 5 May. Thus, the draft laws were distributed, respectively, 18 and eight working days prior to their first reading scheduled at the 16 May plenary session. The Draft Labour Law was distributed on 14 May, while the Draft Law on Official Statistics was distributed on 16 May. Thus, the draft laws were distributed, respectively, twelve and ten working days prior to their first reading at the 2 June 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. Most of the draft laws above were reviewed in first reading in compliance with Rule 35.1, while three draft laws were reviewed in first reading eight working days from the day of their distribution, which was not in compliance with the Rule above.

Legislative process

- The Draft Law on Farmers Cooperatives and the Draft Law on Use of Civil Explosives were approved, respectively, five weeks and almost three months after their endorsement in first reading on 26 February. The Draft Law on Amending the Provisional Criminal Code was approved five weeks after its first reading on 27 February. The Draft Law on Amending the Law 2002/9 on Labour Inspectorate; the Draft Law on Amending the Law 2003/15 on Social Assistance Scheme; the Draft Law on Accommodation Tax; the Draft Law on Amending the Law on Execution of Penal Sanctions; the Draft Law on Final Exam in Primary and Secondary Schools were approved two months after their first reading on 28 February. The Draft Law on Declaration of Origin of Property of Senior Public Officials and the Draft Law on Amending the Provisional Criminal Procedure Code were approved two months after their first reading on 29 February. The Draft Law on Out-Contentious Procedure; the Draft Law on Execution Procedure; and the Draft Law on Material Support to Families with Permanently Disabled Children were approved almost three months after their first reading on 29 February.

Rule 35.6 provides that “[w]hen a committee has been designated to review a draft law, it shall report its recommendations to the Assembly no later than two months after the first reading (emphasis added), unless an extension is approved by the Assembly.” Most of above-referenced draft laws were approved by the Assembly within the timeframe foreseen by Rule 35.6, whilst some draft laws were approved slightly after two months. Nevertheless, during the previous legislature, monitoring reports noted that committees had difficulties in reviewing draft laws and submitting their recommendations within two months. Thus, the Assembly could consider extending this period to three months in order to allow committees more time to properly review draft laws.

- At the 16 May plenary session, Mr. Gani Koci (PDK), Chairperson of the Functional Committee (Budget Committee), proposed that the Draft Law on Money Laundering should be returned to the sponsor with the justification that it had many deficiencies, which could not be eliminated through amendments. The President of the Assembly called for a vote on Mr. Koci’s proposal, which was approved with 53 votes in favor and the draft law was returned to the sponsor.

Under Rule 35.3, “[t]he sponsor may withdraw the draft law during the first reading, before the procedure of voting it in principle takes place (emphasis added).” By analogy, the Functional Committee should have proposed to the Assembly to return the Draft Law on Money Laundering to the sponsor in accordance with Rule 35.3. Moreover, Rule 35.7 provides that “[t]he functional or main committee may review the draft law in principle even before the first reading of the draft law takes place in plenary session (emphasis added).” If the Functional Committee had reviewed the draft law in question before its first reading, as allowed by Rule 35.7, it would have had the opportunity to notice earlier the deficiencies of the draft law and propose its return to the sponsor during the first reading, rather than making such a proposal approximately almost three months after its first reading, which took place at the 26 February plenary session. It is highly recommendable for the Assembly committees to utilize the opportunity of reviewing draft laws before their first readings in order to make the legislative process more efficient.

- During the reporting period, approximately 20% of scheduled Committee meetings were cancelled due to the lack of quorum, which occurs because many Members do not show up or seem to have other engagements. Cancellation of meetings also causes delay in review and adoption of draft legislation and other documents. The Assembly could regulate this matter in

the new Rules of Procedure by introducing a mechanism which would ensure the quorum in committee meetings.

Questions to the government

- At the 4 April plenary session, eight out of twelve questions received responses. At the 17 April plenary session, eleven out of 25 questions received responses. At the 29 April plenary session, twelve out of 20 questions received responses. At the 16 May plenary session, eleven out 30 questions received responses. At the 2 June plenary session, 13 out of 21 questions received responses. Parliamentary question were generally not answered because of the absence of Prime Minister and ministers, but some questions were postponed because the time for question period had expired. At each plenary session, the President of the Assembly stated that the question which did not a receive response in two sessions would be published in the Assembly bulletin.

Question periods at the two above-referenced plenary sessions were carried out by the Assembly in compliance with the Rule 26 on “Questions to the Government for oral answers”, which provides that the agenda of each session shall include a period up to 50 minutes for Members’ questions to the government, with one minute for the question, three minutes for the Minister’s answer, one minute for a follow-up question, and two minutes for the response to the follow-up question. The Assembly should consider regulating the question period in a more efficient way because it appears that all questions cannot be processed during the 50 minute period. The Assembly could either extend the question period or limit the number of questions per Member in order to give the opportunity to all Members, who submitted questions, to put them forward and receive response.

Under Rule 26.11, “[i]f a question has not been answered within two plenary sessions, the question will be published in the Bulletin of the Assembly.” The latest bulletin of the Assembly published on 19 June did contain ten questions, which did not receive responses by the government in two sessions, as required by Rule 26. However, the Assembly should use its authority to ensure that the government responds to Members’ questions, because government’s accountability is a key parliamentary democratic standard.

4. Access

- During the reporting period, Pillar III (OSCE) received access to the plenary sessions, Presidency meetings and committee meetings under review. Pillar III (OSCE) also received copies of documents considered by the Assembly and transcripts of plenary sessions.

5. Transparency

- As announced by the President of the Assembly, at the 15 February plenary session, copies of the records of electronic votes began to be distributed to all Members of the Assembly from the 17 February extraordinary session. The records of electronic votes of several plenary sessions were likewise published on the Assembly website. Nevertheless, not all records of electronic votes were distributed to Members and published on the Assembly website during the reporting period. The Assembly should publish the records of electronic votes in a consistent manner in order to enhance the transparency of the Assembly, particularly Members’ accountability to their constituencies. It is recommendable for the Committee on Mandate, Immunity and Rules of Procedure to consider regulating explicitly in the new Rules of Procedure the issue of publishing of electronic voting records.

Radio Television Kosovo provided live television coverage of the plenary sessions under review. Members of the public and institutional monitors were granted admission to the plenary sessions. The Assembly has a website (www.kuvendikosoves.org, www.skupstinakosova.org, www.assembly-kosova.org) containing biographical details of Members of the Assembly, information about the structure and functioning of the Assembly, minutes and transcripts of

Assembly sessions and Committee meetings, copies of laws and resolutions adopted by the Assembly, along with other information.

ENDS.