



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

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION IN KOSOVO,
AMBASSADOR WERNER WNENDT, TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

VIENNA, 15 JUNE 2006

A) POLITICAL OVERVIEW:

The commencement of negotiations on the future status of Kosovo and the death of President Rugova on 21 January initiated a period of major changes in Kosovo's political landscape. A new government was endorsed by the Assembly on 10 March, the transfer of competencies to the PISG took a decisive direction with the creation of two major ministries and Standards implementation is back on the top of the political agenda. During the reporting period technical negotiations on decentralization, the protection of religious and cultural heritage, and economic issues have taken place. Status talks will begin in July. At the same time a spate of incidents perceived to be ethnically motivated have increased tension within the Kosovo Serb community, particularly in the North.

1) Negotiations on the final status

The UN Security Council held a session on Kosovo on 15 February that focused on the unique circumstances of Kosovo and the run-up to status talks. The option of possible independence for Kosovo was openly debated. Nevertheless, UN Security Council members emphasised that the Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) must demonstrate their proactive engagement in the protection of minorities and the promotion of a multiethnic Kosovo as preconditions for determining status. UN Security Council members also called on Serbian President Boris Tadić to allow the involvement of Kosovo Serbs in Kosovo's PISG.

Between 20 February and 31 May six rounds of direct negotiations on technical issues were held under the auspices of the UN Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Future Status Process for Kosovo, Martii Ahtisaari. The intention was to conduct these talks – that focused on decentralization, the protection of religious and cultural heritage, and economic issues – outside the framework of direct discussions on status. Nevertheless, while agreement was reached on several practical issues, there is still disagreement on substantive issues.

Reportedly, the talks on decentralization began in a cooperative spirit and some common ground was found on some issues. Nevertheless, considerable differences between the two sides emerged. The parties reached agreement on granting more control over the education and the health system to municipalities, particularly those with a Kosovo Serb majority, and on reflecting the ethnic balance within municipalities in the composition of

the local police force. General consensus was reached on the acceptability of financial subsidies from Belgrade for municipalities in Kosovo and on the right of Kosovo municipalities to form inter-municipal arrangements of functional cooperation and to establish issue-oriented links with Belgrade in the areas of education or health. However, the two teams proposed divergent proposals on the number of, and criteria for, new Kosovo Serb majority municipalities to be established. The sides disagreed on the future of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town.

On the issues related to religious and cultural heritage, both teams agreed on the need for the protection of religious sites and on the legal status of the Serbian Orthodox church. Nevertheless, as reflected in the Deputy Special Envoy Albert Rohan's statement, common approaches ceased as soon as cultural heritage issues became linked to decentralisation measures.

On economic issues there was a certain amount of agreement towards the problem of external debt. Even so, the meeting demonstrated fundamental disagreements related to property and privatization concerns. The Belgrade delegation requested the immediate halting of the privatisation process in Kosovo and raised the matter of internal debt, while the Prishtinë/Priština delegation focused mainly on the issue of payment of 'war damages'.

Direct talks between Belgrade and Prishtinë/Priština were accompanied by shuttle diplomacy by the Special Envoy and his team between both sides. In addition, a number of high-level international officials, such as the EU Commission President Jose-Manuel Barroso, members of the North Atlantic Council led by the NATO Secretary General Jaap De Hoop Scheffer and Contact Group members, paid visits to Kosovo during the reporting period. On 21 and 22 March the Prime Minister of Kosovo Agim Çeku visited Brussels and had meetings with EU and NATO officials.

International interlocutors underscored the importance of greater progress on decentralization and democratization, and the protection of minorities' rights as well as cultural and religious sites, in order for status negotiations to move forward. All actors appealed to Kosovo Serbs to actively participate in the PISG. Officials of the European Union highlighted European integration as the long-term goal for Kosovo. The Contact Group reaffirmed that a status settlement should be reached before the end of the year, noted that the final settlement needed to be acceptable to the people of Kosovo, and restated their commitment to preserving a viable Kosovo Serb presence in Kosovo.

During his visit to Kosovo on 16 February the OSCE Chairman-in-Office (CiO), Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht emphasized the need for progress in Standards implementation during the status process, and stressed that the OSCE Mission stands ready to assist in this process. Minister De Gucht also emphasized the prospect of a long-term presence of the OSCE in Kosovo in a post-status environment.

The UN Special Envoy Marti Ahtisaari has stressed that, contrary to some reports, there had been some progress in talks on the technical issues. Ahtisaari will present his report on progress achieved so far to the UN Security Council in July. His assessment of the level of constructive engagement by two parties is widely expected to influence recommendations on next steps to be taken in the determination of Kosovo's status. He

has also announced that an ‘elephant’ meeting of direct high-level talks will be held towards the end of July.

2) Reactions to the status talks on the ground

The Prishtinë/Priština team assessed the start of talks as the beginning of a process that will inevitably lead to an independent and sovereign Kosovo. This optimism was reflected in all Kosovo Albanian media, who evaluated the talks as constructive and the Prishtinë/Priština Negotiation Team’s proposals as realistic. Kosovo Serbian media reported Belgrade Negotiation Team member Leon Kojen’s comments that Belgrade’s platform was equally convincing and accepted by representatives of the international community as a pragmatic step forward.

Some protests and criticism of status talks by both Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs took place. Radical organizations such as Albin Kurti’s “Vetëvendosje” (Self Determination) movement, the Albanian National Army (AKSH) and the Albanian National Union Front (FBKSH) criticised status talks and Kosovo Albanian participants in strongly worded statements or pamphlets. A peaceful demonstration of approximately 1,600 Kosovo Serbs took place in Kamenicë/Kamenica Municipality immediately after the start of negotiations in protest at the prospect of an independent Kosovo and warning that such a solution would result in a Kosovo Serb exodus.

3) Internal political developments in Kosovo and their impact on the Standards implementation

Contrary to initial expectations, Kosovo’s political institutions carried out a smooth and democratic transition after the death of President Rugova on 21 January and the resignation of Prime Minister Kosumi on 1 March. The LDK-AAK ruling coalition also survived this decisive test and proved that it was not only personality-driven.

The risk of internal struggle and a possible split inside the LDK was real. Nevertheless a consensus quickly emerged to nominate Fatmir Sejdiu, Secretary General of the LDK and a personality respected both in Kosovo and by the International Community, for President.

On 1 March, the LDK presidency made public their decision to “dismiss” the President of the Assembly of Kosovo Mr. Nexhat Daci and nominated Kolë Berisha to replace him. Mr. Daci agreed to resign on 9 March, one day before the Assembly held its extraordinary session to elect both the new government and the new President of the Assembly. Mr. Kolë Berisha, who had demonstrated commitment to improving the democratic functioning of the Assembly, assumed the position of the President of the Assembly of Kosovo. An LDK faction led by Daci competed for the LDK presidency position that was vacant since Mr. Rugova had stepped down as LDK President in February 2005. According to party regulations, the LDK should have held its congress sometimes in June. A new date for the congress – which will bring to a close internal party struggles – has been set for autumn.

Criticism against Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi intensified after the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan presented his report on Standards implementation to the Security Council on 25 January. Despite his attempt at the end of February to give new impetus to

Standards implementation by his government, he finally resigned on 1 March. The name of Agim Çeku as the most likely replacement was immediately and widely circulated on the same day, in spite of the fact that he was not affiliated with any political party at the time. As the former Kosovo Liberation Army commander and head of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) since 1999, he is one of the most popular personalities in Kosovo. Agim Çeku quickly accepted to assume the responsibility of premiership, and after joining AAK was elected by a comfortable majority on 10 March.

Prime Minister Çeku had to form a new government as per Kosovo's Constitutional Framework. This opportunity permitted the establishment of the two new ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs, officially created in 2005 as part of the devolution of power from UNMIK to PISG. However, political parties present in the previous government decided to maintain continuity by not allowing Mr. Çeku to change any ministers. In response to public discontent over ministerial performance, Mr. Çeku announced that each of the Ministers will have 100 days, until June, to prove themselves. Prime Minister Çeku emphasized the need for concrete results and urged his government to reach out to Kosovo's minority communities and municipal institutions. The past three months have seen a sharp increase in outreach by Ministers to municipalities. The grace period of 100 days has come to an end, but there are no indications that major changes will be made to the Government.

Since Mr. Çeku has assumed the position of Prime Minister, local authorities have started to demonstrate more active implementation of Standards. On 8 June the Contact Group presented a list of 13 priorities – mostly related to protection of minorities and good governance - to the Government to be fulfilled by October. OMiK continues to co-chair, together with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the Working Groups on Property Rights and the Functioning of Democratic Institutions, and to assist the PISG in the implementation of these key Standards. The Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan will soon be replaced by the European Partnership Action Plan in order to move Kosovo towards European integration.

During the reporting period OMiK has steered UNMIK consultations with Kosovo's political leadership on the issue of postponement of the municipal elections. The SRSG and the international community at large had become increasingly concerned about the original schedule for holding these elections in autumn, given that a political campaign during this crucial period might have a negative impact on the status talks process. A roundtable organised by the OSCE in April at which all political entities represented in the Kosovo Assembly participated, as well as follow-up consultations, helped build broad support for the decision of the SRSG to postpone the municipal elections for a period not exceeding twelve months from the time they were due to be held. The timing of the municipal elections in 2007 will be reviewed before the end of 2006 in light of the status process.

As a last act before his departure at the end of June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Søren Jessen-Petersen will present his latest report on political developments and the technical assessment of Standards implementation to the UN Security Council on 20 June. It is commonly expected that this time the report will provide a positive assessment of developments in Kosovo.

4) Relations with Kosovo Serbs and relations with Belgrade

Under its new political leadership the PISG has initiated a series of outreach visits to municipalities with a significant Kosovo Serbian population, with mixed results. While the Prime Minister and a number of leading Ministers were involved in the outreach effort, President Sejdiu has played the most prominent role. There were some successes, most notably President Sejdiu's welcome at Dečane/Deçan Monastery over the Serbian Orthodox Easter weekend. This marked the first time a President of Kosovo has visited the monastery. Reactions by both the Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb communities to this event were muted. In contrast, Prime Minister Çeku was denied attendance at Gračanica/Graçanicë Monastery's Easter service. In addition, the President and the SRSG's meeting with officials in Štrpce/Shtërpçë Municipality was boycotted by the majority Kosovo Serb municipal representatives.

At the municipal level there are indications that several municipalities are taking a more hands-on role in promoting the integration of minorities into public life. This is partly due to the renewed central-level push for such activities, but can also be attributed to the initiative of some of the municipalities themselves. For instance, Rahovec/Orahovac Municipality has been particularly effective in organising public meetings on issues of local concern that have attracted increasing numbers of Kosovo Serb inhabitants.

Outside of the framework of negotiation talks, relations between Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade show few signs of progress. One source of contention has been the Coordination Centre for Kosovo's directive demanding that Kosovo Serbs forgo their PISG salaries in order to continue receiving salaries from Belgrade. By the end of April the majority of Kosovo Serbs had officially withdrawn from the PISG payroll. It should, however, be noted that official figures do not present the full picture; economic interest dictates that some Kosovo Serbs unofficially continue to receive PISG salaries. Positive developments have taken place in other areas; the recent joint signing (albeit at the working non-Ministerial level) of the Protocol on Voluntary and Sustainable Return paves the way for closer cooperation in the future.

There have been a series of incidents with a possible interethnic motivation - or at least that have been perceived as such - that have been seized upon by Kosovo Serb politicians and the Serbian press as further confirmation that Kosovo Serbs are not welcome. This is particularly the case in the Northern municipalities of Kosovo, where tension amongst the local population has mounted. Attempts by UNMIK or the PISG to counter these perceptions - for instance UNMIK released statistics for the first quarter of 2006 revealing a decline in potentially ethnically-motivated crimes compared to the same period in 2005 - have been given short shrift by Kosovo Serbs and their leaders.

Most recently, the third serious security incident within a month in the North of Kosovo has underlined the fragility of the current situation. On June 1 a young Kosovo Serb was ambushed and later died. This has resulted in swift reactions, despite the lack of evidence that any of these recent incidents are ethnically motivated. Within a day the Municipal Assembly of Zvečan/Zveçan declared that the attacks were part of a consolidated effort to terrorize Kosovo Serbs, expressed its distrust for the regional Kosovo Police Service personnel and announced it would cease cooperation with the PISG. In addition, the Municipal Assembly has called for Serb police forces to move back into northern Kosovo. The Municipal Assemblies of Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok and Leposavić/Leposaviq followed suit and passed similar resolutions.

B) MISSION ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTS:

1) Human Rights and Rule of Law

Human Rights Units: Since March 2006, OMiK has been supporting the improvement of human rights compliance in the executive branch of the PISG through a programme providing technical assistance to each Ministry's Human Rights Unit (HRU). During the first half of 2006, OMiK deployed eight senior human rights advisors along with eight assistants to the PISG. As a result, each Ministry's participation in the development of a human rights strategy has increased. Further improvements are anticipated as OMiK continues more in-depth capacity building that will enable the HRUs' to increase their competence for applying human rights principles, mainstreaming minority rights within the larger human rights context, and for implementing recommendations made by international treaty bodies.

Human rights capacity-building: OMiK also builds human rights capacity at the local level by delivering training to municipal officials from six sectors: administration, public health, education, social welfare, police and judiciary. The aim of the training is to educate participants in human rights principles and international standards, institutions and mechanisms with a special focus on the situation in Kosovo.

Gender issues: In accordance with the OSCE 2004 Action Plan on Gender Issues, OMiK has supported gender related activities within the institution-building component of its mandate. OMiK has an officially designated Gender Focal Point, who works closely with UNMIK and local counterparts, in addition to co-ordinating all gender activities within OMiK. The OMiK focal point on trafficking is engaged, inter alia, in victim assistance, capacity building and policy development.

Judiciary: The Legal System Monitoring Section continued to focus its judicial monitoring on proceedings involving members of minority communities. With regard to criminal proceedings, OMiK monitored the existing cases of inter-ethnic crimes as a matter of priority, and published, in March 2006, its 7th Review of the Criminal Justice System. As for civil cases, OMiK has closely monitored property disputes between Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs, issuing several monthly reports and the 1st Review on the Civil Justice System in June. Moreover, OMiK regularly provides training for the Kosovo Judicial/Bar Exam candidates. The training programme consists of sessions lasting eight weeks prior to each exam and so far members of minority communities took part in every training cycle. In addition, monthly training sessions are organised to keep lawyers up to date on the changing legal environment in Kosovo and to develop practical legal skills.

Public safety: OMiK is also assisting in the development of the Local Public Safety Committees (LPSC). According to the applicable law, LPSC has been given a specific mandate with a view to bringing the Police closer to the community, as well as to add a further guarantee to minority communities with regard to the Kosovo Police Service (KPS). OMiK attends all LPSC meetings and will initially assist LPSCs and the Police during their establishment by reinforcing the training they have received. In the second half of 2006, OMiK will begin a sustained monitoring programme looking at the LPSCs and the responsiveness of the Police to minority community concerns.

Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector: OMiK's Professional Development Programme, supported by the Geneva based think-tank DCAF, continues enhancing the capacity of the Assembly of Kosovo's security sector oversight bodies. Several expert roundtables for the Assembly Committee on Emergency Preparedness were organised in Prishtinë/Priština in order to accompany the transfer of competences from UNMIK in the security sector. At the same time, OMiK continues to support the development of regional and European cooperation, by facilitating the participation of Members of Parliaments in various international fora. Most recently, a delegation of three MPs, including a Kosovo Serb, attended the NATO Parliamentary Assembly session in Paris at the end of May.

Police Inspectorate of Kosovo: OMiK's Police Inspectorate implementation programme supports the establishment of the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK) that is central to the oversight of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the strategic policy-making role of the Kosovo Police Service (KPS). The statutory responsibilities of the PIK are to inspect police organization across a range of core management functions and to investigate allegations of serious police misconduct. The initiative suffered a setback earlier this year due to delays in the appointment of a Minister of Internal Affairs, which has now been resolved. Recruitment of a multi-ethnic, gender-balanced team, comprising one Chief Inspector and 20 Inspectors, is now finalized and a 30-week training programme has been designed and translated into Albanian and Serbian. The training and operations of PIK are set to commence on 19 June.

Police education: The Department of Police Education and Development (DPED) has separated the functions of the Kosovo Center for Public Safety Education and Development (KCPSED), whose staff have been recruited and employed as Kosovo Civil Servants. KCPSED participates in the Kosovo Internal Security Sector Review (ISSR), which is a critical component in developing and prioritizing the security sector strategies. The DPED interacts with the newly formed Ministry of Internal Affairs to help ensure a solid and professional foundation for their responsibilities. On 10 June the 32nd class of police cadets graduated from the Kosovo Police Service School with the highest percentage (24%) of minority community representation to date.

2) Transition of Independent Institutions

On 16 February 2006 UNMIK Regulation 2006/06 on the Ombudsperson in Kosovo was passed, thus completing the transition of the institution. While a Kosovo Albanian, with a Kosovo Serb Deputy, continues to serve as the Acting Ombudsperson, the Assembly of Kosovo now has to appoint a permanent Ombudsperson, one Principal Deputy, and three Deputies. Out of these five, at least two must come from the Kosovo Serb and other Kosovo minority communities. Formal rules of procedure were adopted on 14 June, after which a public call for nominations will be made. In May 2006, OMiK organised a roundtable discussion with members of the Assembly's Legislative Committee and civil society to work on draft rules of procedure. OMiK has three senior international advisors to the Ombudsperson Institution: a human rights advisor, a legal advisor and a media advisor.

The Department of Elections (DE) is continuing the process of handing over the management of the electoral process to the Central Elections Commission (CEC) and its

Secretariat. After the elections for Kosovo Assembly held in 2004, when the Secretariat successfully discharged its responsibilities in the field of election operations, this year the OSCE continues the transfer of technical responsibilities with regard to Voter List creation, Count and Result compilation and Out of Kosovo Voting. The preparation of a plan to hand over the political party registration office to local authorities is also underway; local structures capable to perform the tasks of registering and auditing the finances of political parties are being identified. Additionally, the OSCE is providing the CEC with advice and support in revising the election legal framework, including future CEC electoral rules. It is expected that for forthcoming elections, the OSCE will retain a small number of staff in an advisory role only, mostly at central (CEC) level.

The transition of the regulatory body for electronic media from the Office of the Temporary Media Commissioner (TMC) under OSCE's responsibility to the Independent Media Commission (IMC), has been ongoing since the promulgation of the Law in April 2005. The IMC will be responsible for licensing, overseeing, controlling and where necessary sanctioning all broadcast media and assuring their adherence to European practices. As already reported, OMiK has been supporting the process of creating a financially sustainable and independent institution.

3) Assembly of Kosovo

There have been a number of improvements in the democratic functioning of the Assembly under the stewardship of the New Assembly President Kolë Berisha. Mr. Berisha has initiated more debate inside the Assembly Presidency and at the plenary sessions. On 1 June, under his leadership, the Assembly adopted with an absolute majority a comprehensive set of reforms, which include a calendar for the rest of 2006 - with two to three plenary sessions per month and regular meetings with parliamentary group leaders and committee chairpersons - , increased time devoted to questions and interpellations to the Government, improved public access to official documents, and a more structured approach to the preparation and adoption of plenary session agendas.

As part of this process, OMiK, in cooperation with other partners, has provided several inputs to improve the functioning of the Assembly. OMiK also provided advice on the Assembly's role in the procedure for appointing the Ombudsperson, on the inclusion of the new Parliamentary Group "For Integration" in Assembly Committees and on strengthening the Women Caucus in the Assembly.

4) Negotiations support programme

OMiK's 2006 negotiations support program, which follows on from the program initiated last year, aims to offer support to all community representatives in Kosovo. The purpose of the programme is to offer indirect support to the negotiations process by building the internal capacity of actors. On 28 April a total of 17 Kosovo Serb political and community leaders discussed their role in the negotiation process with Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, the former EU Special Envoy to Kosovo, in the context of the Contact Group Guiding Principles and the conclusions of the Council of EU Foreign Ministers on Kosovo. Ambassador Petritsch gave a clear message to Kosovo Serb representatives on the need for engagement in the PISG and in the negotiation process. On 9-10 June non-Serb minority communities were offered a two-day problem-solving, leadership and negotiation skills workshop upon their request.

5) Education

OMiK has taken a leading role in the successful implementation of measures to restore lawful governance, and in attempting to diffuse the politicization within Kosovo's higher education institutions. To that end, it has directed the process of electing the University of Prishtinë/Priština's Student Parliament and Rector, due to be completed by the end of June. OMiK will continue to provide support to the newly elected representatives through capacity-building programmes, targeting particularly the Student Parliament.

OMiK is running two Kosovo-wide non-formal education projects: the Youth Assembly for Community Development project, which has so far established Youth Assemblies in 12 Kosovo municipalities; and the Youth Empowerment and Dialogue Initiative, which, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports, supports capacity building for Municipal Youth Networks throughout Kosovo, including those located in Northern Kosovo.

6) Municipal Monitoring Teams

OMiK's proactive monitoring policy, implemented through the Mission's 33 Municipal Teams, provides the basis for the Mission's field activities. With the withdrawal of UNMIK, and in the context of discussions on future arrangements in Kosovo, the Mission's role in monitoring developments in the field will have further increased in importance. OMiK's result-oriented proactive monitoring has already demonstrated a number of achievements.

In response to recent political tension concerning the SRSG's signing of a protective Special Zoning Area around the Orthodox monastery in Deçan/Dečane, OMiK's Municipal Team initiated and facilitated visits of Kosovo Albanian schoolchildren to the monastery. The first visit took place on 16 May and marked the first time that Kosovo Albanian civilians have entered the monastery since the 1999 conflict.

OMiK's Municipal Teams noted recurring language policy violations by Kosovo's central institutions. In their communications with municipal bodies with a significant, or majority, Kosovo Serb population, some official documents are distributed only in the Albanian language. In response, specific examples of language policy violations and supporting evidence were provided to the Prime Minister Çeku who pledged to take action.

OMiK Municipal Teams have also ensured timely follow-up by local authorities to attacks on cultural heritage properties, such as the St Eliah Orthodox church in Podujevë/Podujevo.

C) THE MISSION AND FUTURE PLANS

1) UNMIK Restructuring

UNMIK is undergoing the second phase of its planned restructuring, in which it is preparing for the handover of its functions to local authorities, and to some extent to a future international civilian presence in a post-1244 phase. In this context, in May

UNMIK Pillar I on Police and Justice evolved into the Department of Justice and the Office of the Police Commissioner within the Office of the SRSG. This development followed the earlier establishment of the Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs and opened the way for the further transfer of competencies to these two new Ministries.

Progress in the restructuring of the UN field presence under the Department of Civil Administration (DCA) has been marked by the continuous handover of its field responsibilities to the OSCE. Based on the Agreement signed between the OSCE Mission and the UN DCA, the transfer of monitoring and reporting responsibilities to OMiK is underway. OMiK has deployed personnel in all municipalities in Kosovo and has consolidated the organisation of its field structure into five Regions, while DCA has reduced its municipal presence and has closed down all of its Regions except the one in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. Since DCA is further reducing its field presence into seven municipal centres, each covering three to four municipalities, OMiK is trying to ensure the completion of its roll-out strategy with the deployment of adequate staff throughout Kosovo.

Smooth cooperation between DCA and OMiK and a joint approach to issues has provided for effective support to good governance and to the protection of minority rights at the municipal level. The introduction of daily reporting by OMiK field staff has secured the crucial role of OMiK in providing timely information to all UNMIK principals. The OSCE is expected to take on the primary responsibility for such reporting by the end of this month, albeit with continued input from DCA.

Such an information flow from the field is an essential prerequisite for UNMIK's ability to pursue effective and coordinated policies. Daily reporting acts as an early warning mechanism for issues that require attention and may necessitate the exercise of UNMIK's accountability policy. As the status settlement approaches, the role and the importance of the OMiK field presence in proactive monitoring and in providing first-hand information and analysis to the international community is expected to further increase.

2) Future arrangements and plans

The UNMIK-led process of preparing for the structure and the responsibilities of an international civilian presence after the end of UNMIK's mandate has made significant progress. Following the fourth meeting of the informal Steering Group on Future Arrangements in April, which brought together the representatives of the UN, including UNOSEK, OSCE, NATO and EU representatives, a general consensus was built on the parameters for a post-status civilian mission. Those parameters include the need for: a new UN SC Resolution as a basis for the mandate of a future civilian presence, limited and targeted international presence to allow for maximum local ownership, responsibility and accountability, enough resources and power to implement mandate effectively; and the need for a field presence and monitoring.

Within this context, it is not clear at what point in the future the work of the OSCE in Kosovo will have to be exercised under a new mandate and in a new political context. In any case, it is well accepted that the OSCE presence in Kosovo post-1244 will look for continuity and keep a Kosovo-related expertise in the future international civilian presence. In terms of functions, OSCE is expected to continue its traditional role in monitoring and institution-building.

Planning for the 2007 budget of the Mission has been based on a number of assumptions regarding OMiK's future engagement. In 2007 and beyond, the Mission is likely to be responsible for pro-active monitoring of the decentralisation process, human rights, the police, the judiciary and overall minority protection mechanisms; support and assistance to democratic institutions, particularly the Assembly; and capacity-building in the public safety and security sector. In addition, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the OMiK field presence will be the most significant international field presence in post-UNMIK Kosovo. It is expected that other international actors will rely largely on the OSCE's monitoring and information-gathering capacities, and will look to OMiK to implement other key tasks related to the status settlement. Therefore the Mission's budget planning has taken into account the need to ensure a strong and efficient field component.

Lessons learned from Kosovo and from the region can only serve to underscore the importance of coordination between different international organisations in planning and executing their functions, especially when deriving their overall mandate from the same source. Given that the structure and functioning of a future civilian presence should guarantee the coherence of the international community's policy in Kosovo, the OSCE, through the Mission, the Secretariat and the Chairmanship, is committed to continuing consultations in implementing future arrangements with all relevant stakeholders.

The European Union (EU), is expected to assume a number of responsibilities from the UN in this transition process, first and foremost in rule of law areas (Police and Justice). The EU Joint Action, launched in April calls for the establishment of an EU Planning Team (EUPT) in Kosovo, which is likely to prepare the ground for an EU-led rule of law mission after the status settlement. The deployment of the EUPT at the beginning of June is a first step in the concrete operational planning that needs to take place in the next few months in this field, which will need to include a demarcation of future responsibilities *vis-a-vis* the OSCE Mission.