

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

**OSCE Mission in Kosovo Report 02/2010**  
**On the Monitoring of the Assembly of Kosovo**  
**1 March 2010 – 30 April 2010**

**Highlights**

- **Assembly adopts its new rules of procedure**
- **Assembly endorses the draft law on the Ombudsperson's Institution**
- **Assembly reviews annual reports of five independent institutions**
- **Assembly adopts a declaration on the operation of Serb parallel structures in Kosovo**
- **Assembly debates on 10 February 2007 protest**

**1. Background**

This 67<sup>th</sup> 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.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo monitored seven regular plenary sessions, on 4 March, 11 March, 18 March, on 1 April, 8 April, 15 April and on 29 April as well as eight Presidency meetings, on 1 March, on 9 March, on 16 March, on 30 March, on 6 April, on 13 April, on 20 April and on 28 April.

**2. Overview**

**The 4 March plenary session** was chaired by the President of the Assembly, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (Democratic Party of Kosovo - PDK), and a member of the Presidency, Mr. Xhavit Haliti (PDK).

- Eighty-seven members of the Assembly were present at the 4 March plenary session.<sup>1</sup>
- Main agenda items of the 4 March plenary session:
  - Debate on the operation of Serb parallel structures in the territory of Kosovo (The debate was held at the request of the parliamentary group of the Democratic League of Dardania (LDD). At the beginning of debate, the sponsor of the debate, Mr. Lulzim Zeneli (LDD), delivered an opening statement; he was followed by parliamentary group representatives and several other Assembly members. At the end of the debate, a declaration was adopted with 52 votes in favour and two votes against.<sup>2</sup>)

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<sup>1</sup> This is the figure announced by the President of the Assembly at the beginning of the plenary session. Nevertheless, this figure does not correspond with the total number of votes on the agenda items below because it does not include abstentions and members that do not declare their vote at all.

<sup>2</sup> The text of the declaration is as follows: "(a) The Assembly of Kosovo reconfirms the obligation for respect and full implementation of the Constitution of Kosovo throughout the territory of Kosovo by guaranteeing its territorial integrity and inviolability of its internationally recognised borders; (b) The Assembly of Kosovo

**The 11 March plenary session** was chaired by the President of the Assembly, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK), and a member of the Presidency, Mr. Etem Arifi (Democratic Ashkali Party of Kosovo/PDAK).

- Sixty-four members of the Assembly were present at the 11 March session.
- Main agenda items of the 11 March plenary session:
  - Questions to the government for oral answer
  - First reading of the draft law on amending and supplementing the law on administrative procedure  
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 62 votes in favour and no votes in against)
  - First reading of the draft law on the Ombudsperson Institution  
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 58 votes in favour and eight votes against)
  - First reading of the draft law on prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism  
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 69 votes in favour and no votes against)
  - First reading of the draft law on amending and supplementing the law on value added tax  
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 57 votes in favour and one vote against)
  - Review of the recommendation of the Committee for Legislation and Judicial Affairs with regard to the appointment of one member of the Property Claims Commission  
(The appointment was endorsed with 53 votes in favour and no votes against.)

**The 18 March plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo** was chaired by the President of the Assembly, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK), and by a member of the Presidency, Mr. Ibrahim Gashi (Alliance of New Kosovo/AKR).

- Sixty-three members of the Assembly were present at the 18 March plenary session.
- Main agenda items of the 18 March plenary session:
  - Debate on the draft strategy on energy for period 2009-2018  
(The Minister of Energy and Mines delivered an opening statement on the draft strategy, followed by the chairperson of the Committee for Economy, Trade, Industry, Energy, Transport and Communications, parliamentary group leaders and several other members of the Assembly. At the end of the debate, the President of the Assembly authorised the Committee for Economy, Trade, Industry, Energy, Transport and Communications to review the draft strategy and submit recommendations to the Assembly, which would be voted upon at the next plenary session.)

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welcomes the declaration of the International Steering Group for Kosovo, dated 8 February 2010, which expresses full support to the intensified efforts of the institutions of Kosovo with regard to northern Kosovo; (c) The Assembly of Kosovo is committed to ensuring that all citizens of Kosovo enjoy protection by the law. Assembly of Kosovo appreciates the support of the European Union and international community in ensuring that all citizens are democratically represented in central and local levels, benefit from services and investments and have access to justice system; and (d) The Assembly of Kosovo reconfirms its commitment to local self-government and decentralization in accordance with the Comprehensive Status Settlement Agreement, the Constitution of Kosovo and other relevant legislation.”

**The 1 April plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo** was chaired by the President of the Assembly, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK), and by a member of the Presidency, Mr. Xhavit Haliti (PDK).

- Ninety-one members of the Assembly were present at the 1 April plenary session.
- Main agenda items of the 1 April plenary session:
  - Questions to the government for oral answer
  - Third reading of the draft law on anti-dumping measures  
(The draft law was approved with 68 votes in favour and one vote against)
  - Review of the government's proposal with regard to the appointment of board members of the Kosovo Railways Regulatory Authority  
(The appointments were endorsed with 53 votes in favour and no votes against)
  - Ratification of loan and financing agreement between the government of Kosovo and KfW German Government bank<sup>3</sup>  
(The agreement was ratified with 91 votes in favour and three votes against)
  - Review of recommendations of the Committee for Economy, Trade, Industry, Energy, Transport and Communications regarding the draft strategy on energy for period 2009-2018  
(The recommendations were adopted with 54 votes in favour and six votes against)

**The 8 April plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo** was chaired by a member of the Presidency, Mr. Xhavit Haliti (PDK).

- Eighty-two members of the Assembly were present at the 8 April plenary session.
- Main agenda items of the 8 April plenary session:
  - Debate on the 10 February 2007 'Vetë-vendosja' (Self-determination) protest  
(The Chairperson of the session delivered an opening statement, followed by parliamentary group leaders and several other members of the Assembly. The debate was closed without a vote on petitioners' requests.<sup>4</sup>)

**The 15 April plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo** was chaired by the President of the Assembly, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK), and by a member of the Presidency, Mr. Naim Maloku (AAK).

- Eighty-five members of the Assembly were present at the 15 April plenary session.
- Main agenda items of the 15 April plenary session:

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<sup>3</sup> KfW banking group is a German Government-owned development bank, based in Frankfurt. Its name originally comes from Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), meaning *Reconstruction Credit Institute*, and it is owned by the Federal Republic of Germany and the States of Germany. The purpose of this agreement is the construction of a 400 kV power transmission line between Albania and Kosovo. KfW will offer to the government of Kosovo € 33,500,000 consisting of a financial contribution of up to € 16,500,000 and a loan of up to € 17,000,000.

<sup>4</sup> Note that the "committee against the judicial process of Albin Kurti," composed of members of the 'Self-determination' movement and several other local NGOs, submitted to the Assembly presidency a public petition with signatures of 145,769 residents calling for "the suspension of the judicial process against Albin Kurti and an investigation into the killings, which occurred during the 10 February 2007 protest". Additionally, the 'committee' requested the Presidency to hold a plenary session to discuss these matters. The Presidency, on 16 March, had discussed the petition and decided to request an opinion of the Committee for Human Rights, Gender Equality, Missing Persons and Public Petitions and to the Committee for Legislation and Judicial Affairs on the matter. Subsequently, the two committees recommended to the Presidency to hold a debate on Albin Kurti's case since it fulfilled legal requirements, and the Presidency therefore scheduled a plenary debate on the matter in question.

- Questions to the government for oral answer
- First reading of the draft law on state administration  
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 30 votes in favour and 28 votes against)
- First reading of the draft law on amending and supplementing the law on irrigation of agricultural land  
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 66 votes in favour and two votes against)
- First reading of the draft law on courts  
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 62 votes in favour and one vote against)
- First reading of the draft law on strikes  
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 39 votes in favour and 14 votes against)
- First reading of the draft law on electricity  
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 47 votes in favour and eight votes against)
- Second reading of the draft law on postal services  
(The draft law was approved with 62 votes in favour and one vote against)
- Second reading of the draft law on Kosovo diaspora  
(The draft law was approved with 59 votes in favour and one vote against)
- Second reading of the draft law on amending and supplementing the law on value added tax  
(The draft law was approved with 54 votes in favour and seven votes against)
- Second reading of the draft law on execution of international sanctions  
(The draft law was approved with 56 votes in favour and one vote against)
- Review of government's proposal with regard to the appointment of director and deputy director of the Waste and Water Regulatory Authority  
(The appointments were endorsed with 57 votes in favour and seven votes against)
- Review of the proposal with regard to the establishment of the *ad hoc* committee for selection of Independent Media Commission Council members  
(The proposal was adopted with 63 votes in favour and two votes against)
- Information of the LDK and AAK parliamentary groups with regard to the replacement of committee members

**The 29 April plenary session of the Assembly of Kosovo** was chaired by the President of the Assembly, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi (PDK), and by a member of the Presidency, Mr. Naim Maloku (Alliance for the Future of Kosovo/AAK).

- Ninety-four 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 Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Kosovo  
(The draft Rules of Procedure was approved with 90 votes in favour and no votes against)
  - Second reading of the draft law on Kosovo civil service  
(The item was postponed for the next plenary session<sup>5</sup>)
  - Second reading of the draft law on salaries of civil servants  
(The item was postponed for the next plenary session)

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<sup>5</sup> Second readings of the draft law on civil service and the draft law on salaries of civil servants were postponed for the 13 May plenary session in order to allow more time to the Committee for Public Administration, Local Self-Government and Media and Committee for Legislation and Judicial Affairs to discuss and harmonize their recommendations regarding these two draft laws.

- Second reading of the draft law on forensic medicine  
(The draft law was approved with 70 votes in favour and no votes against)
- Second reading of the draft law on personal data protection  
(The draft law was approved with 72 votes in favour and no votes against)
- First reading of the draft law on immovable property tax  
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 53 votes in favour and no votes against)
- First reading of the draft law on administrative conflicts  
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 60 votes in favour and no votes against)
- First reading of the draft law on metrology  
(The draft law was endorsed in principle with 69 votes in favour and no votes against)
- Review of the annual 2009 report of the Independent Media Commission  
(The report was approved with 60 votes in favour and no votes against)
- Review of the annual 2009 report of the Public Procurement Regulatory Committee  
(The report was approved with 52 votes in favour and two votes against)
- Review of the annual 2009 report of the Procurement Review Body  
(The report was approved with 49 votes in favour and three votes against)
- Review of the annual 2009 report of the Anti-Corruption Agency  
(The report was approved with 58 votes in favour and no votes against)
- Review of the annual 2009 report of the Kosovo Pensions Trust  
(The report was rejected with 15 votes in favour and 49 votes against)
- Review of the government's proposal with regard to the appointment of members of the Independent Appeals Board  
(The appointments were rejected with 20 votes in favour and 38 votes against)
- Review of the proposal with regard to the appointment of members of the Managing Council of the Kosovo Judicial Institute  
(The appointments were endorsed with 45 votes in favour and 18 votes against)
- Review of the government's proposal with regard to recruitment of additional correctional officers in Dubravë/Dubrava prison<sup>6</sup>  
(The proposal was endorsed with 61 votes in favour and one vote against)
- Review of the government's proposal with regard to recruitment of staff of the Agency for Management of Confiscated Assets<sup>7</sup>  
(The proposal was endorsed with 65 votes in favour and three votes against)
- Review of the request of the Committee for Human Rights, Gender Equality, Missing Persons and Public Petitions with regard to the extension of deadline for review of the draft law on protection from domestic violence  
(The request was approved with majority of votes in favour and no votes against)
- Review of the government's proposal with regard to the appointment of one member of the Kosovo Competition Commission  
(The appointment was endorsed with 46 votes in favour and 11 votes against)
- Review of the government's proposal with regard to the appointment of one board member of the Kosovo Privatization Agency  
(The appointments were endorsed with 46 votes in favour and 14 votes against)

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<sup>6</sup> The government proposed to hire additional 71 correctional officers to serve in Dubravë/Dubrava prison.

<sup>7</sup> The government proposed to hire 17 employees of the newly established Agency for Management of Confiscated Assets.

### 3. Parliamentary practices and proceedings of Assembly sessions

#### Legislative process

- During the review period, the Assembly approved six laws as follows:

Name	Functional committee	First reading	Second reading	Time frame
Law on personal data protection <sup>8</sup>	Committee for Internal Affairs and Security	29 October 2009	29 April 2010	6 months
Law on Kosovo diaspora	Committee for Education, Science, Technology, Culture, Youth and Sports	29 October 2009	15 April 2010	5.5 months
Law on postal services	Committee for Economy, Trade, Industry, Energy, Transport and Communications	29 October 2009	15 April 2010	5.5 months
Law on forensic medicine	Committee for Legislation and Judicial Affairs	28 January 2010	29 April 2010	3 months
Law on execution of international sanctions	Committee for Foreign Affairs	28 January 2010	15 April 2010	2.5 months
Law on amending and supplementing the law on value added tax	Committee for Budget and Finance	11 March 2010	15 April 2010	1 month

*Comment: 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, unless an extension is approved by the Assembly.” Five of the above-referenced draft laws were approved by the Assembly beyond the deadline required by rule 35.6 and only one responsible functional committee had asked the Assembly to extend the deadline, which was not in compliance with rule 35.6. Many previous OSCE monitoring reports had likewise noted that the Assembly committees are having difficulties to review and report their recommendations on draft laws according to the timeframe set forth in rule 35.6. The OSCE therefore recommended that the Assembly should hire additional support staff to assist the committees, so that they could review draft laws in timely manner. In this regard, it is important to mention that on 1 March, the Presidency approved the proposal of the Secretariat to hire 13 experts to support the committees in their work.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, the committees should also strive to review the*

<sup>8</sup> On 29 December 2009, the Assembly approved the committee request extending the deadline for the review of the draft law on personal data protection until 31 January 2010. The committee however exceeded the deadline by three months.

<sup>9</sup> The Assembly will hire 13 experts to support following committees: an economy and finance expert to support the Committee on Budget and Finance, an economy and finance expert to support the Public Accounts Committee, an European integration expert to support the Committee on European Integration, an international affairs expert to support the Committee for Foreign Affairs, a technical sciences expert to support the Committee for Economy, Trade, Industry, Energy, Transport and Communications, an environmental protection expert to support the Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development, Environment and Spatial Planning, an education expert to support the Committee for Education, Science, Technology, Culture, Youth and Sports, a health issues expert to support the Committee for Health, Labour and Social Welfare, an security issues expert to support the Committee for the Oversight of Kosovo Security Force, three legal experts to support the Committee for Legislation and Judicial Affairs, the Committee for Rights and Interests of Communities and the Committee for Human Rights, Gender Equality, Missing Persons and Public Petitions, and an European partnership expert.

*draft laws within the required timeframe by meeting more often, when needed, than on a weekly or bi-weekly basis as they commonly do.*

- On 28 April, the Presidency received a request from the Committee for Health, Labour and Social Welfare for additional time of one month to review the draft law on medical devices and products, and it agreed to include the committee's request in the agenda of the next plenary session. While, at the 29 April plenary session, the Assembly endorsed a request of the Committee for Human Rights, Gender Equality, Missing Persons and Public Petitions for additional time of 15 days to review the draft law on protection from domestic violence.

*Comment: 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, unless an extension is approved by the Assembly." The draft law on protection from domestic violence and the draft law on medical devices and products were both endorsed in first reading at the 28 January plenary session. Approximately three months later, both committees submitted requests to extend the deadline for the review of the respective draft laws, which was not in compliance with rule 35.6. The committees should have made such requests before the two-months deadline for review of draft laws was over.*

- At its 16 March meeting, the Presidency discussed a motion submitted by Mr. Riza Smaka (AKR) proposing that the Assembly should instruct the government to prepare the law on protection of children and minors from harmful content. The Presidency decided to request the opinion of the government regarding Mr. Smaka's motions. The government nevertheless did not yet provide an opinion on the matter.

*Comment: The decision of the Presidency was in conformity with rule 34.1, which provides that "[w]hen a Member of the Assembly submits to the Table Office a motion that the Assembly should instruct the Government to prepare a draft law, the Presidency shall request the opinion of the Government."*

#### Distribution of draft legislation

- The draft law on Ombudsperson Institution was distributed on 16 February; the draft law on amending and supplementing the law on administrative procedure was distributed on 18 February; the draft law on prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism was distributed on 22 February; and the draft law on amending and supplementing the law on value added tax was distributed on 24 February. Thus, the draft laws were distributed, respectively, 15, 14, 12 and ten working days prior to their first reading at the 11 March plenary session.

The draft law on state administration was distributed on 18 January, the draft law on amending and supplementing the law on irrigation of agricultural land was distributed on 15 March, the draft law on courts was distributed on 22 March, the draft law on strikes was distributed on 31 March; and the draft law on electricity were distributed on 1 April. Thus, the draft laws were distributed, respectively, 58, 19, 14, seven and six working days prior to their first reading at the 15 April plenary session.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Note that the first reading of the draft law on state administration was initially scheduled to take place at the 11 February plenary session, but was postponed because of the absence of Minister of Public Administration, who was supposed to present the draft law to the Assembly. See OSCE Mission in Kosovo report 01/2010 on the monitoring of the Assembly of Kosovo, for more details.

The draft law on administrative conflicts was distributed on 6 April, the draft law on metrology was distributed on 8 April, and the draft law on immovable property tax was distributed on 20 April. Thus, the draft laws were distributed, respectively, 15, 13 and six working days prior to their first reading at the 29 April plenary session.

*Comment: 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. Thus, five of the above-mentioned draft laws – draft law on state administration, draft law on amending and supplementing the law on irrigation of agricultural land, draft law on strikes, draft law on electricity and draft law on immovable property tax – were not reviewed in a first reading in compliance with rule 35.1. The draft law on state administration and the draft law on amending and supplementing the law on irrigation of agricultural land were reviewed in first reading more than three working weeks after their distribution, while the first reading of the draft law on strikes, draft law on electricity and draft law on immovable property tax took place earlier than ten working days after their distribution. It is important that there is a better planning of the first readings of draft laws in order not to delay their adoption.*

#### Assembly adopts its new rules of procedure

- During the 29 April plenary session, the Assembly adopted in second reading its new rules of procedure, including 57 amendments. The new rules of procedure include several important new provisions, which aim at improving the functioning of the Assembly, especially in the field of oversight of the executive, legislative review, oversight of independent institutions and transparency to the public. The new provisions provide better options for regulating more efficiently questions to the government and interpellations, which are key instruments of oversight available to the Assembly. The new rules of procedure also introduce a framework aiming to improve the interaction between the Assembly and independent institutions, especially focusing on reporting of independent institutions before the Assembly, which was unregulated in previous rules of procedures. Additionally, the new rules of procedure provide more clear provisions in mainstreaming the legislative review process and increasing the Assembly's accountability towards its constituents by publishing the records of electronic votes of plenary sessions.

*Comment: Following the November 2007 elections for the Assembly of Kosovo and at the beginning of its third mandate, the Committee for Mandates, Immunity and Rules of Procedure started to draft new rules of procedure. The new draft was endorsed in first reading at the 11 December 2008 plenary session. Nevertheless, the new draft rules of procedure remained pending in the Assembly for more than one year after their endorsement in first reading because the Committee for Mandates, Immunity and Rules of Procedure and the Assembly Presidency could not harmonise their views. The new rules of procedure have become effective from the day they were adopted. The next monitoring report will be based on compliance with the new rules of procedure.<sup>11</sup>*

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<sup>11</sup> As part of the drafting of new rules of procedure, the committee conducted a seminar in July 2007, facilitated by OSCE, which provided an opportunity to prepare an initial draft of new rules. The OSCE provided a number of procedural suggestions and inputs for the new rules of procedure, based upon the findings and observations of its monitoring team during the second mandate of the Assembly. The OSCE suggestions involved improving the key functions of the Assembly, such as the oversight of the executive, legislative process and Assembly accountability.

### Assembly reviews 2009 annual reports of independent institutions

- On April 29-30, the Assembly reviewed the 2009 annual reports of five independent institutions, as follows:
  - Report of the Independent Media Commission,
  - Report of the Anti-Corruption Agency,
  - Report of the Public Procurement Regulatory Commission,
  - Report of the Procurement Review Body,
  - Report of the Kosovo Pensions Trust.

The Assembly reviewed the reports thoroughly giving sufficient time for discussions and allowing the functional committee responsible for each institution to provide an introductory overview. During the discussion, both majority and opposition members of the Assembly, shared the opinion that the functioning and work of independent institutions should not be politically influenced or pressured. The Assembly endorsed the annual reports of the Independent Media Commission, Anti-Corruption Agency, Public Procurement Regulatory Commission and Procurement Review Body, but rejected the report of the Kosovo Pensions Trust (KPT), because the report was considered as not giving a true assessment of the activities in 2009 and contained only financial statements, taken from the KPT database. The KPT has been asked to supplement its report and resubmit it to the Assembly.

*Comment: The OSCE has noted that more independent institutions are submitting their annual reports in 2010 than in the previous years. Even more positive is the increasing trend in the Assembly to discuss and thoroughly review the annual reports of independent institutions, and to offer recommendations. There are more discussions taking place at the committee level, and more proactive efforts by the Assembly are being made to cooperate with independent institutions.*

### Assembly encounters difficulties in managing parliamentary question periods

- During the questions period at the 11 March plenary session, 14 questions were asked by members of the Assembly, of which 12 questions received a response by the government. At the 1 April plenary session, a total of 30 questions were included in the regular period of questions to the government for verbal response. Out of 30 questions, 8 questions were the ones postponed from the previous session and 22 new questions. Nevertheless, only ten questions received response and 20 additional questions were postponed for the next session since the time for question period had elapsed. At the 15 April plenary session, 23 questions were included in the regular period of questions to the government for verbal response, of which 7 questions were postponed from the previous session and 16 new questions. Out of 23 questions, only eleven questions received response and 12 additional questions were postponed for the next session since the time for question period had elapsed. At the 29 April plenary session, nine out of 13 questions received a response by the government.

*Comment: Question periods during the reporting period were carried out by the Assembly in compliance with rule 26 on “Questions to the government for oral answers”, which provides that the agenda of each session shall include a period of 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.*

*It has been noted earlier and during this reporting period that all questions could not be processed during the 50 minutes period because of the high number of questions*

*submitted by members. It is worth mentioning that the Committee for Rules of Procedure has included new provisions in the new draft rules of procedure, according to which the question period would last up to 60 minutes and a member of the Assembly would have the right to ask only two questions per plenary session. New provisions intend to make the question period more effective by giving to members who submit questions a better opportunity to receive a response in a timely manner. Nevertheless, the absence of the government to respond to questions creates difficulties to the Assembly in managing properly the question periods and often causes the question to lose its relevance. The Assembly should therefore make more efforts and use its authority to ensure the government's accountability, which is a key democratic function of parliaments.*

#### **4. Access**

- During the reporting period, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo continued to have access to the plenary sessions, presidency meetings and committee meetings. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo also received copies of documents considered by the Assembly and transcripts of plenary sessions.

#### **5. Transparency**

The Assembly did not publish the records of electronic votes of plenary sessions, which took place during the reporting period.

*Comment: At the 15 February 2008 plenary session, the President of the Assembly stated that the Assembly would publish on its website the records of electronic votes of plenary session decisions. Following the President's announcement, the Assembly began publishing the records of electronic votes from the 17 February 2008 extraordinary session, but not in a consistent manner. It is therefore recommended that the Assembly consistently publishes the records of electronic votes in order to enhance the transparency of the Assembly, especially the accountability of members of the Assembly to their constituents.*

- Radio Television of 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](http://www.kuvendikosoves.org), [www.skupstinakosova.org](http://www.skupstinakosova.org), [www.assembly-kosova.org](http://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.