



REPUBLIKA E KOSOVËS – ZYRA E PRESIDENTIT  
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## The President's Activities, November 2009, No 7

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# Sejdiu: Kosovo is home to all its citizens, regardless of their ethnicity or religion

12.11.2009. - The President of the Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu and the Minister of Local Government and Administration, Mr. Sadri Ferati held today a press conference at Caglavica Media Centre, where they called on members of Serb community and other communities to participate and play an active part in 15 November elections.



Once again, President Sejdiu called on the members of Serb community to integrate themselves into all social and public fields of life.

“Once again, I invite all the members of Serb community, who are citizens and residents of Kosovo, to get involved in all fields of social and public lives. This would be to the benefit of us all, to the benefit of each family and to the benefit of all citizens. By calling you to participate in the municipal elections scheduled for November 15, we want to underscore that this is a good opportunity for us to display our joint power as citizens of Republic of Kosovo and, hence, exercise our civic rights, starting with fundamental ones up to others, for this is in the interest of each community. Accordingly, I have come today to extend this invitation to you with the best aim and objective to ensure a good cooperation with all our citizens, including Serbs and members of other communities” – President emphasized.

In addition to this, President said that he had come to Caglavica to convey Republic of Kosovo institutions’ message to all the people of our country to carry and follow through with November 2009 elections.

Once again, he called on representatives of minority communities, including those of Serb community, to play an active role in this process, which primarily concerns the exercising of a constitutional and human right and, hereby, a way to fulfill the interests of each citizen.

On this occasion, President Sejdiu said that 15 November municipal elections represent a good opportunity to all Kosovo citizens to accomplish and materialize – by their direct participation in these elections – their political will for the people they want to elect and whom they want to entrust the leadership, so that the latter can, later on, by respecting the trust of their constituents, perform their functions as best as they can, by they mayors or members of municipal assemblies. In this context, the President welcomed the call of over 100 Serb intellectuals addressed to

Kosovo Serbs to participate in November 15 elections. On the other hand, he deemed that Serbian authorities' approach to discourage Kosovo Serbs from participating in these elections is irrational.

Moreover, the President said that good preparations have been made with the international community – with the ICO first of all – to organize elections in the three new Serb majority municipalities. He maintained that this was a chance to demonstrate all the positive energies to make these municipalities operational, which is another commitment that they have taken and which derives from Ahtisaari's Proposal. "At the same time", – he added – "this is a good chance to get actively involved in other major processes that affect the lives, the concerns and the interests of every citizen."

President Sejdiu said that Kosovo's vision is to show in practice that Kosovo is home to all its citizens, regardless of their ethnicity or religion, and that they must be a part of an incessant and unwavering movement toward North-Atlantic integration.

With regard to relations with neighboring countries, President Sejdiu said that Kosovo's institutions aim at fostering neighborly relations, such as those with the Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania, and that they aim at creating similar relations with the Republic of Serbia in the future. "The entire region", – President Sejdiu added – "is obliged to develop and foster the spirit of cooperation further and to meet, by way of this cooperation, the major requirements for integration." ●

## President Sejdiu's Message on 15 November Elections

**13.11.2009.** - Dear citizens of Republic of Kosovo, I want to thank you for the culture and civic awareness that you have shown during the one-month pre-electoral campaign that was conducted following the declaration of our country's independence. I also want to express my appreciation for political parties and independent candidates who are running for mayors and municipal advisers for having been a part of a dynamic and fair competition. Any occasional incident that may have occurred in recent days does not diminish the positive perception that has already been cre-



ated about the campaign conducted thus far.

15 November elections represent a great test on democracy for all of us, therefore, once again, I urge you to vote and to determine by yourselves who is going to lead

our towns during the next four years.

The failure to participate in elections entails your immediate deprivation of the right to demand accountability from those who will win the mandate to govern your municipalities. This is why you should participate actively in this important process and, by exercising your right to free voting, contribute directly to the quality of the way in which your municipality will be governed.

These elections are crucial to the future of our country. They also constitute an important test on further processes of integration into the European Union, NATO and other international institutions.

On the next Sunday, we should prove to the world that Kosovo is a stable country, that it produces peace and stability in the region and that it may serve as a model of neighborly relations and cooperation with other democracies.

Dear citizens,

Local and central institutions may have not met all your expectations or accommodated your requests, but elections are the best opportunity for you to vote for the most experienced and respectable candidates to govern your municipalities during the next four years. Therefore, vote and make November 15 a festive day for your municipality and for the entire Kosovo!

Last but not least, I once again call on political parties, independent candidates, Central Election Commission in particular and other mechanisms, to carry out their duties in a dignified and professional manner and to abide thus by the Constitution and legislation of Republic of Kosovo.

So, let the November 15 be a day when the true values of our free and democratic country will be revealed.

Best wishes and good luck! ●

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## President Sejdiu conveyed his congratulations to Baroness Catherine Ashton

**23.11.2009.** - The President of the Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu has extended a letter of congratulation to Baroness Catherine Ashton on her appointment as the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The letter reads:

Her Excellency Baroness Catherine Ashton

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Honorable Baroness Ashton:

I would like to personally and on behalf of the institutions and the people of the Republic of Kosovo congratulate Your Excellency on the occasion of your appointment as the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Your unanimous appointment for this important post has once again shown Europe's common voice and its commitment

towards promoting its basic principle: unity in diversity.

The Republic of Kosovo has made its endeavor towards becoming a fully-fledged member of the European Union a priority. We look forward to working with Your Excellency in fulfilling the vision of the people of Kosovo to obtaining their rightful place in the EU and joining other members that nourish the same values. We shall remain grateful for the continuous support that the EU has given to Kosovo for more than a decade and we look forward to continuing this excellent cooperation.

Please accept once again, Your Excellency, my heartfelt congratulations for your appointment in this important post and the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration. ●

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# President Sejdiu conveyed his congratulations to Mr. Herman Van Rompuy

**23.11.2009.** - The President of the Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu extended a letter of congratulation to Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, on the occasion of his appointment as the first permanent President of the European Council. The letter reads:

His Excellency Herman Van Rompuy  
President of the European Council

Honorable President Rompuy:

I would like to personally and on behalf of the institutions and the people of the Republic of Kosovo congratulate Your Excellency on the occasion of your appointment as the first permanent President of the European Council. The people of the youngest country in the world, the Republic of Kosovo, join Your Excellency and all the people of Europe in celebrating this momentous event, which clearly shows the commitment of the European

Union to continue promoting its values and principles.

The Republic of Kosovo has directed all of its efforts towards fulfilling the criteria for joining the European Union. We have welcomed the proposal of the European Commission for a feasibility study evaluating means to further Kosovo's political and socio-economic development, and examining how best Kosovo can progress as part of the region toward integration in the EU in the context of the Stabilization and Association Process. This approach, once again, proves Republic of Kosovo's clear European perspective and we look forward to working with your Excellency towards fulfilling this vision of the people of my country.

Please accept once again, Your Excellency, my heartfelt congratulations for your appointment in this important post and the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration. ●

# President Sejdiu awarded the Golden Medal of Independence to Ambassador Rohan

**24.11.2009.** - The President of the Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, received today at a meeting Ambassador Albert Rohan, the former UN Deputy Special Envoy for Kosovo, whom he awarded with the Golden Medal of Independence.

During the award ceremony, President Sejdiu noted that he had taken this decision so that it can serve as a token of appreciation for the enormous role that Ambassador Rohan has played during the talks on our country's political status and as a symbol of our profound acknowledgment and appreciation for his commit-

ment to Kosovo.

I have decided to give this award to Ambassador Albert Rohan, who was a deputy to the UN Special Envoy for Kosovo, President Marti Ahtisaari, and a member of his team, for the enormous role that he has played in a long and difficult process of negotiations, for his contribution to finding the best formula for supporting Kosovo, for his official support to the independence of Kosovo in the international arena and for his respect of the will of our people and his sincere engagement in supporting the further growth and prosperity

in the Republic of Kosovo at all stages” – President Sejdiu declared.

“In my capacity as President of our country, it is my privilege to hand over the Golden Medal of Independence to Mr. Rohan and I wish that this will

serve as a token of our profound acknowledgment and appreciation for him” – President Sejdiu said while handing over the medal to Mr. Rohan.

In addition to this, President Sejdiu praised Ambassador Rohan’s friendliness towards all the people of Kosovo and his readiness to engage further in supporting Kosovo in the international arena and in ensuring Kosovo’s accession to international institutions and further recognitions of the Republic of Kosovo by other countries.

On the other hand, ambassador Rohan expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to President Sejdiu, saying that the medal was a great honor for him.

“This medal is a great honor for me and it leads me to look back to almost 20 years of my involvement in Kosovo. My work in and for Kosovo didn’t start with the status process. I came here for the first time in the early 90s, almost 20 years ago, and that’s when I left my heart here” – Rohan said.

Ambassador Rohan said that he feels satisfied that his engagement has con-



tributed to finding a solution to a long-standing problem.

“Looking at Kosovo today, we can see that we were successful. We are not blind to many problems which are still outstanding and the many challenges the country has still to face and we hope that all political forces of the country will stick together to overcome these problems” – Ambassador Rohan stressed out.

Further on, he said that Kosovo’s future is bright and expressed his belief that Kosovo will, sooner or later, become a part of the European Union.

“The future of Kosovo is bright and the future of Kosovo is, in my view, within the European Union and, sooner or later, we will find ourselves all in the European family and my wish is that this happens sooner rather than later” – he said.

The former UN Deputy Special Envoy for Kosovo also spoke of proceedings regarding the legality of the declaration of Kosovo’s independence due to take place soon at the International Court of Justice and the impact that these proceedings may have in further recognitions of

Kosovo. He said that the Serbian government has used this process as a means to discourage other governments from recognizing Kosovo and to lay the emphasis on a verdict due to be rendered by the International Court of Justice.

“Many countries which hesitated have delayed the recognition and have said that they will wait for this half a year or so and then they’ll see. The problem for afterwards is that the decision of the International Court of Justice will not be very clear and the President of the court has said so. It will probably speak about certain principles of International Law. On the other hand, it will speak of political realities and, in the end, each side can say, well, our arguments are well-reflected in this decision. So, I can’t predict what will happen after this decision, but certainly this tough case and a decision to be expected by springtime or whenever holds up recognitions, I’m sure. Whether this decision will be formulated in such a way that the well-intentioned countries may say that now they can recognize Kosovo remains to be seen, depending on the wording of the court” – Mr. Rogan assessed.

Responding to a question posed by a journalist as to when will Kosovo become a member of UN, he said that, given Russia’s statements supporting the position of Serbia, this may happen when Serbia is ready to accept Kosovo’s independence and give up its resistance to UN membership.

During the press conference staged following the meeting with Mr. Rohan, President Sejdiu was asked by journalists whether the Serbian military base opened recently close to the border with Kosovo undermines the stability and safety in Kosovo. He said that this is nothing else but an expression of Serbia’s efforts to factorize her own appetites and her feelings and visions to become a director of developments in the South-East Europe, which is a role that he has neither had, nor will ever have.

“The time when Serbia maintained a hegemonic role in relation to other surrounding countries and which was followed by an irrational logic has gone. Kosovo is and must remain peaceful and any approach that aims at raising tensions is unacceptable to us. It is important that Kosovo enjoys a continuous support

by the international community in terms of retaining safety in and integrity of our country. We will never be the ones to transmit negative signals. Rather, we will promote neighborliness between our two sovereign countries. However, we will never accept any logic that may eventually aim at threatening the sovereignty of our country” – President Sejdiu said.



# Meta: Kosovo has a European perspective



**25.11.2009.** - The President of the Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, received in a meeting today Republic of Albania's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ilir Meta.

During the meeting, President Sejdiu thanked Mr. Meta for the strong support that Republic of Albania has, is and will provide to Kosovo and for Minister Meta's unwavering commitment of supporting Kosovo in major processes of integration, democracy and institutional functioning and, in particular, for the unequalled engagement of Republic of Albania's diplomatic network and county's senior leadership in ensuring further international recognition of Republic of Kosovo. Speaking of achievements in the country, the President said that a quality progress was made and that, in this context, 62 countries have already recognized the Republic of Kosovo. However, he said further

recognitions are needed, praising Kosovo's accession to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

President Sejdiu said regional cooperation and bilateral relations with the Republic of Albania are of a special importance. He mentioned Republic of Albania's contribution in the region and its neighborly relations with other countries, adding that Mr. Meta arrival in Prishtina and meetings that he will have with representatives of other institutions will serve as an additional guarantee to this commitment. Republic of Albania's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ilir Meta, said that he discussed with President Sejdiu current situation in terms of relations between the two countries, further boost of cooperation, growing partnership in every field and the course of action in terms of maintaining a pace in processes that aim at integration



into the European Union.

“I would like to express my high consideration for the progress that the new state of Kosovo has made with regard to recognitions that were announced in a very short while and I am positive that Kosovo’s democratic and European Constitution has served as a foundation to this progress. President Sejdiu’s has undoubtedly played and is still playing a crucial and appreciated role in ensuring political stability and functionality of Kosovo’s institutions” – Mr. Meta pointed out.

Z. Meta also mentioned challenges laying ahead for Kosovo, such as the further promotion of the new state, which, Meta maintained, has encountered an enormous international recognition in a short term, and the challenge of ensuring a clear European perspective, which he said is approaching Kosovo.

“Concrete efforts were made recently at the European Union to ensure that Kosovo also receives a visa liberalization guide and to ensure that Kosovo, as a new state and, first of all, as a European state

that deserves a place as an internal member of the EU, together with the entire region of the Western Balkan, is also included in the current process of integration of Western Balkan” – Meta said.

As an answer to a question posed by journalists following the meeting with Meta concerning municipal elections and their impact on relations between governmental coalition parties, President Sejdiu said that his general observation is that these elections were fair and that international observers share the same opinion, though he concurred that there may have been some elements that need to be tackled by the Central Election Commission and Complaints and Appeals Commission. On the other hand, President Sejdiu said that a general and governmental stability exists in the country.

Further on, President Sejdiu said that it is important for us to be aware of challenges that lay ahead of us and of what is of a primary importance to our people and the Republic of Kosovo. He said there is a common understanding regarding this between the government and the people.

“The Constitution of our country, as the main foundation to institutional building, is a bottom line that has to be upheld. Coalition partners share an obligation to foster a common understanding and this is an issue to which they do pay a special attention” – President Sejdiu said at a joint press conference with Republic of Albania’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ilir Meta. ●



# President Sejdiu's Speech at the Academy Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Professor Selman Riza

**25.11.2009.** - Honorable President of the Kosovo Academy of Sciences and Arts, Mr. Besim Bokshi, Honorable Vice President of Kosovo Academy of Sciences and Arts, Mr. Myzafer Korkuti, Honorable ministers and representatives of central and local governments, Honorable family of Prof. Selman Riza, Honorable participants to the solemn academy celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Prof. Selman Riza, I am honored to address

today a respectable audience at a solemn academy celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the great patriot and intellectual, Professor Selman Riza.

I was honored as the President of the Republic of Kosovo to have had the opportunity to have all the activities staged on this anniversary and directed by the Academy of Science and Arts held under my auspices.

Today I may say with full confidence that, owing to the commitment of President Bokshi and the entire team at the Academy and to the assistance provided by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the Municipal Assembly of Gjakova, we are fulfilling a part of our obligation to the colossus of our culture and Albanology and the founder of the national-democratic platform for Kosovo's freedom and independence.

Professor Selman Riza has provided an enormous contribution during his scientific engagements. He created the first Kosovo Research Centre in Prizren back in 1943. During the 50s of the 20th cen-



tury, he was a founder of and a student himself in the Institute of Albanology, sowing thus the seeds of Albanological studies.

Academic Ismaili is right when we writes that Professor Riza's writings indicate that he has had two overriding passions: Albanian Grammar and Kosovo. He had a passion for the freedom of mind and the love for his country and nation. He has suffered a lot for these two ideals and now we, at this solemn occasion, may say that these two main ideals that he has had in this world have become a reality and are enjoyed by his compatriots. The freedom of mind, for which he sacrificed a lot during all the regimes, finally prevailed; the freedom of Kosovo, inspired by his ideals of democracy and a free and educated society, finally prevailed.

Honorable participants, In the realm of Albanological studies and other studies in Albanian, Selman Riza is known, first of all, as an Albanologist who has advanced the research on and knowledge of Albanian morphology. We will re-

main forever appreciative of his first series of monographs based on current and historic developments in the field of Albanological studies, which have laid the foundation of a science on Albanian grammar. His modern approach of study, in one hand, and his new findings and knowledge, have enhanced the Albanian grammar.

Professor Riza was also focused on studying the new trends in Albanian writings and on elaborating on them. His studies remain up to date in terms of efforts to unify the Albanian language. He distinguished himself with his theoretical treatises back in 1944, which he developed later on into wide-ranging researches on the language used by previous Albanian writers. Riza is known as one of the greatest authors in this field.

Selman Riza deserves a special respect also for his studies on Albanian language in relation to other languages. Even nowadays, his Serbian grammar remains the only Serbian grammar written by an Albanian and drafted from the viewpoint of its relation to Albanian language.

Riza's interest in general issues related to linguistic studies and his conceptions regarding philosophical theory of knowledge were revealed recently.

Professor Riza's contribution is multifaceted. Researchers have praised highly his great engagement in creating new terms in various fields of knowledge and his contribution to the compilation of various glossaries of terms during the 60s and 70s of the last century. This amount of his contribution helps us today to understand better and express ourselves more accurately in many public, scientific and intellectual fields.

With a due respect of researchers' appreciation for Professor Riza, we may say that his studies constituted an important contribution to the knowledge of Albanian language and linguistics, to the overall advancement of this knowledge in the course of Albanian evolutions of the 20th

century and to our integration into various fields of linguistics. I believe we must all learn from Professor Riza's critical perseverance and commitment.

It is up to scientists, researchers and linguists to explore deeper into the treasury of Professor Riza's legacy. Without any hesitation, we will provide an institutional contribution to assist in making this treasury stand out shining in the realm of knowledge of Albanology.

The 100th anniversary of Professor Selman Riza's birth poses on us the public and political responsibility to engage in providing better conditions for scientific research and to give the ideals, projects, results and contributions provided by our distinguished personalities of our culture the place they deserve.

More light will certainly be shed on the life and work of Professor Riza during the activities that will be staged in Kosovo and Albania on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

In addition to this, we may all feel relieved tomorrow for having fulfilled Honorable Professor's wish to rest in peace in his birthplace, in Gjakova, in Kosovo, which he was forced to abandon as a child and to long for it during his entire life. From now on, he will have Republic of Kosovo's state institutions' acknowledgment and care that he deserves.

Honorable participants,

Professor Riza's merits are multidimensional and extraordinary. On 17 June 2005, the historic President of Kosovo, Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, has awarded Professor Selman Riza with the Golden Medal of the League of Prizren for his contribution to Albanological studies and education and Kosovo's freedom and independence. With a special respect for his life and his permanent excellence in his engagements, on the 100th anniversary of his birth, in my capacity as the President of the Republic of Kosovo, I have decided to award the Golden Medal of Freedom to Professor Selman Riza. ●

# President Sejdiu conveyed his congratulations to President Topi on the Flag Day

**26.11.2009.** - At the occasion of November 28, the Flag Day, the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, sent a letter of congratulation to the President of the Republic of Albania, Dr. Bamir Topi.

Below you may read letter's contents:

His Excellency, Bamir Topi,

President of Republic of Albania

On behalf of the people and institutions of Republic of Kosovo, I want to convey to you my best wishes on November 28, the Flag Day.

The declaration of Albania's independence on 28 November 1912 was undoubtedly the most important event in the history of Albanian nation after the November of Gjergj Kastriot Skenderbeg's. This blessed day brought together leaders from all Albanian territories in Vlora, where they unanimously declared the independence of Albania. Ever since then, Albanians from Albania, Kosovo and their ethnic ter-

ritories were brought up, were educated and have sacrificed themselves by holding up proudly their National Flag, which is symbol of unity, peace and love between Albanians, regardless of their province or religion.

November 28 is a day that belongs to every Albanian, wherever he lives or works. It is a day that reminds us of great sacrifices that Albanians have made and of a permanent war that they have waged throughout their history in order to have the spirit of their national identity intact. Today, on the 97th anniversary of declaration of independence, Republic of Albania can take pride of achievements it has made, especially in recent years. Accession to NATO and Albania's steady movement towards its integration into the European Union represents a great incentive for us in Kosovo to engage in implementing the standards set by these institutions. A successful conclusion to

this one-directional process would round up, once and forever, Albanian nation's return to Europe, which is its natural spiritual, cultural and political bosom.

Assuring you once again of my highest consideration, Honorable President, I wish progress and prosperity will always prevail in the Republic of Albania! ●



Archive photo

# President Sejdiu congratulated the citizens and the President of the Islamic Community of Kosovo

**26.11.2009.** - The President of the Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, has conveyed a message of congratulations to the citizens of our country on the holiday of Small Bajram. The message of congratulation reads:

I congratulate all Republic of Kosovo's citizens and people of Muslim faith on the holiday of Small Bajram, which strengthens the faith in God, understanding, honor and love amongst people.

This holiday is a symbol of sacrifice for the good, peace and happiness among all the people around the world and nourishes the feeling of compassion and charity for those in need of help and solidarity. This year, Republic of Kosovo is marking this holiday with significant achievements made in every field. Besides a solid economic progress, encouraging results were also achieved in promoting our country around the world. The independence of Kosovo has been recognized by 63 sovereign and democratic states around the world and we are working together with our friends on ensuring new recognitions. Though multiple challenges lay ahead of us, our institutions are resolved and committed to accomplishing our aim of becoming a member of the European Union, NATO and other international institutions as soon as possible.

As always, we are fully confident that our friends will support us with all their great potential to make our path to integration shorter, which is crucial to us.

On the verge of this feast, I want to remind you that, being a country of a great tolerance and an excellent co-existence between people that belong to various ethnicities and religions, the Republic of Kosovo reflects an extraordinary religious

culture, which the entire world praises as a special asset to our country.

Let us invest all our knowledge and will in ensuring that this high appraisal never fades away!

Congratulations to you on Small Bajram! May peace and harmony prevail in each family in Kosovo!

God Bless Republic of Kosovo and its people!

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**President Sejdiu sent a letter of congratulation to the President of the Islamic Community of Kosovo, Mr. Naim Tërnav**

On the occasion of Small Bajram, the President of the Republic of Kosovo sent a letter of congratulation to the President of the Islamic Community of Kosovo, Mr. Naim Tërnav. Below you may read the contents of the letter:

Honorable Mr. Naim Tërnav,  
President of the Islamic Community of Kosovo

On behalf of institutions and people of Republic of Kosovo, I want to convey to you my best wishes for Small Bajram.

This holiday is a symbol of sacrifice and faith in God and love for the people, especially for those who are living in difficult financial conditions and need help from our country's society and state institutions.

On this celebrated day, I express once again, honorable President, my appreciation for your permanent commitment to peace, tolerance and stability in the Republic of Kosovo.

# Sejdiu: Kosovo's arguments supporting its independence are invincible

**01.12.2009.** - On behalf of the people and institutions of our country, the President of Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu expresses his great acknowledgement for the decent representation that institutional representatives of Kosovo Skender Hyseni, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Sir Michael Wood and his associates have staged at the International Court of Justice.

Hereby, President Sejdiu thanks all the countries that have and are still supporting Kosovo in the course of these international court proceedings, emphasizing that the arguments that were presented to support the independence of Kosovo are viable and invincible.

“Positive developments that occurred in Kosovo following the declaration of its independence, in addition to other recent historic, legal and modern evolutions in the country and to its being a *sui generis* case, add on to these arguments, which are based on the political will of the people of Kosovo.

Kosovo has proven itself to be a country of a sustainable stability, a country embraceable by all its citizens, a country where rights of minority communities are respected according to highest standards. It is a country that has assumed the responsibilities of an important partner in fostering peace, stability, neighborliness and joint cooperation in the region.

The very international recognition of Kosovo, its accession to international institutions (such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund) as well as partnership and bilateral relations that it has established with other countries indicate Kosovo's headway in developing itself as a sovereign, independent and democratic state.

Kosovo has and still believes in international justice and expects that it these proceedings will end soon by respecting the will of the people of Kosovo and the positive reality that has been created in the sovereign and independent Kosovo” – President Sejdiu said. ●

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## Kosovo supports President Obama's decision

**02.12.2009.** - Joint statement by the President of Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, and the Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi following the United States President Barack Obama's speech on further steps in Afghanistan and Pakistan held last evening at the West Point US Military Academy in New York.

Retaining a high appraisal for the United States' and NATO's commitment to peace, security and stability in the world, the

people and institutions of Republic of Kosovo support President Obama's decision to send additional military troops to Afghanistan and Pakistan in order to root out Al-Qaeda and to prevent its return to these countries in the future.

As an important partner in fostering and keeping peace in the region and beyond, Kosovo strongly supports the decision taken by the United States, whose overriding objective was and is to create a bet-

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ter and safer world for the people around the globe.

Kosovo institutions consider that investment that the United States and NATO have made and are still making in Afghanistan and Pakistan will contribute to peace and stability in these countries and in the entire region.

We are convinced that, in a relatively

short term, this mission will enable Afghan and Pakistani authorities to provide for security and stability in their own countries and in the region by themselves and to accomplish thus their objective of establishing local institutions and ensuring a long-lasting peace and an overall prosperity in their countries.

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## The United Kingdom reaffirms its unreserved commitment to Kosovo

**02.12.2009.** - The President of Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu and the Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi received today the Baroness Ann Taylor, UK Minister for International Defense and Security.

President Sejdiu said that they have received from the UK assurances of their commitment to provide a continuous support to the Republic of Kosovo, to support democratic processes and our institutions, to support the establishment and advancement of security institutions, to support a joint partnership in ensuring Kosovo's movement towards and accession

to international institutions, a support that coincides with proceedings at the Hague International Court of Justice and has been strongly reflected there in terms of favoring an independent and sovereign Kosovo and its further international recognition.

Further on, President Sejdiu thanked Baroness Ann Taylor for the United Kingdom's unreserved support to and investment in Kosovo, for a special role that it has played as a part of KFOR, for an excellent job that they have done for a long time now and for their assurances to fos-

ter a further development in our country.

On the other hand, Prime Minister Thaçi said that they have presented the achievements made in the Republic of Kosovo, including establishment of Kosovo Police, Kosovo Security Force and Intelligence Agency. "The independ-



ence of Kosovo has brought about more peace, stability and regional cooperation and has paved a way for a European perspective” – Prime Minister said, expressing Kosovo institutions’ commitment to ensuring that Kosovo becomes a part of the EU and NATO as soon as possible. The UK Minister for International Defense and Security, Baroness Ann Taylor, said that she has talked with the President and the Prime Minister about recent developments in Kosovo, about the fact that the security situation was now much better than it was some time ago and about challenges that were being faced in terms of building civil institutions in a multiethnic society.

“We are very pleased that we have been able to help from Britain over the years in laying the foundations for these institutions and we are very keen to provide what assistance we can in the future” – Baroness Ann Taylor affirmed.

She pointed out that the United Kingdom was one of the first countries to have recognized the independence of Republic of Kosovo and said that she was glad that many other countries have followed suit. “It is important that Kosovo now has its

independence. However, we know that when you have got such a rebuilding of civil institutions to do, this is a very significant challenge for any country and external assistance is often required. But, we are happy to know the progress that has been made and happy to try and help and give assistance and advice where we can for the work that remains to be done” – Baroness Ann Taylor, said during her first visit to our country.

Answering a question posed by a journalist regarding an eventual involvement of the Kosovo Security Force in any military activity in the world, with the assistance of the United Kingdom, she considered that in terms of building security forces in any country, when one starts from the scratch, there are several phases that one has to go and that it was relatively early days for this as far as Kosovo is concerned.

Baroness Ann Taylor added that a long term objective may be to try to get to a situation when rather than being an importer of assistance, as was the case in the past, Kosovo could get to the situation where it could play a part in helping others that have problems. ●

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## Joint statement by President Sejdiu and Prime Minister Thaçi on recent developments in Kosovo

**03.12.2009.-** Having attentively followed the recent developments related to politics, security and rule of law in Kosovo, the President and the Prime Minister of Republic of Kosovo state as follows:

Hereby we reaffirm our commitment to and engagement in providing for an effective rule of law in our country. Our success in ensuring the growth and integration of our country depends largely on our ability to preserve the rule of law and to offer a better future to each and every citizen of the Republic of Kosovo.

Our and EULEX justice institutions will take all the necessary measures within

their remit to make sure that all the criminal offences that were committed after the war are thoroughly investigated and remain free of political influence.

We call for a complete detachment between politics and justice and a transparency required by law. Any non-institutional action shall be unacceptable to the institutions of Republic of Kosovo.

Once again, we invite the people of our country to retain the calmness and to contribute to stability in our country by confiding in justice institutions and by supporting them in carrying out their duties. ●

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