

Annex I

Report of the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the Secretary-General on the activities of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo

1. Summary

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) continued to undertake monitoring, mentoring and advising activities in the rule of law sector and to implement its executive functions, in accordance with its mandate. Mixed panels of local and EULEX judges have either ruled or are in the process of adjudication in a number of high-profile war crimes, corruption and organized crime cases. During the reporting period, EULEX remained actively committed to Kosovo legislative processes and to supporting the European Union-facilitated Pristina-Belgrade dialogue. On 10 December, the integrated management of crossing points agreement started to be implemented at gates 1 and 3 (Rudnica/Jarinjë and Merdarë/Merdare crossing points).¹ Implementation at gates 5 and 31 (Konçulj/Dheu i Bardhë and Bërnjak/Tabalije crossing points) commenced on 31 December. The Special Investigative Task Force continued its work, in line with its mandate, in investigating allegations contained in the report of the Council of Europe Special Rapporteur, Dick Marty, on illicit trafficking in human beings and human organs. The discovery of two unexploded hand grenades within the perimeter of gate 31 (Bërnjak/Tabalije) in Zubin Potok municipality represents a serious threat to EULEX staff and assets in the area.

2. EULEX activities, October 2012 to January 2013

General

On 9 November, the EULEX Head of Mission, the European Union Special Representative and the Kosovo Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Justice co-signed the “Compact”, which includes the common rule of law objectives for Kosovo institutions, the European Union Office and EULEX. The document will help guide continued rule of law reform efforts in Kosovo and allow regular review and stocktaking of progress achieved.

On 16 November, the EULEX Head of Mission held a series of meetings with officials in Belgrade, including Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić and the Director of the Serbian Office for Kosovo, Aleksandar Vulin. The key issues

¹ The names of the crossing points have been established by the integrated management of crossing points agreement.

discussed included the continued cooperation between Serbian institutions and EULEX in the rule of law area and the implementation of agreements made in the European Union- facilitated dialogue, including the integrated management of crossing points agreement.

On 17 December, Kaçanik/Kaçanik Municipal Court issued an order to detain and arrest the former Mayor, Xhabir Zharku. On the same day, Zharku sent a letter. On 21 April 2011, Zharku had been sentenced by Pristina District Court to three years of imprisonment. The ruling issued by Pristina District Court was appealed to the Supreme Court, which confirmed the ruling of the Pristina District Court in May 2012. At the time of reporting, Zharku remains at large, and his whereabouts are unknown. The failure of the authorities to implement the Court's decision represents a notable challenge to rule of law in Kosovo.

On 7 January, Kosovo police detained 10 persons from the north of Kosovo in Graçanicë/Gračanica on the suspicion of being Aleksandar Vulin's unofficial close protection officers. EULEX monitors visited the detainees on the day of their arrest and witnessed part of their appearance in front of a judge the following day. No complaints about their treatment by Kosovo police were made on either occasion. After their release, late on 8 January, serious allegations of maltreatment emerged in the media, some of which were also raised with EULEX monitors, who went to meet them the following morning. In response to the allegations, the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo and EULEX police launched a preliminary investigation. On 15 January, the Chief EULEX Prosecutor issued a ruling to initiate a criminal investigation against at least one suspect police officer believed to have been identified through photographic evidence.

War crimes

On 20 November, based on an appeal filed by the Special Prosecution Office of Kosovo, a panel of two local and three EULEX judges at the Supreme Court annulled the verdict of the first instance court in the so-called Kleçkë/Klečka case. The case is related to war crimes allegedly committed in a Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) detention facility in Kleçkë/Klečka and involves former KLA commander and current member of Parliament Fatmir Limaj, high-ranking police officer Nexhmi Krasniqi and two more co-defendants. In its ruling of 21 March 2012, the first instance court had ruled all evidence pertaining to the deceased key witness, "Witness X", inadmissible. As a consequence, all had been acquitted owing to lack of evidence. The Supreme Court, however, declared the evidence admissible and sent the case back to the first instance court for retrial. Since it had also declared that it did not have jurisdiction over the prosecutor's application for detention on remand, the Special Prosecution Office of Kosovo submitted the application to the Pristina District Court. On 23 November, the Pristina District Court granted the application and the defendants were taken into custody the same day. On 24 November, a EULEX judge ordered detention on remand for

them. On 27 November, a mixed panel of the Supreme Court rejected the appeal by the defence lawyers against the decision.

On 11 December, also based on the appeal filed by the Special Prosecution Office of Kosovo, the mixed panel of the Supreme Court decided against the judgement of acquittal of the further six defendants in the same case and sent their case back for retrial to the first instance court with the same reasoning. On the same day, the EULEX presiding judge of the retrial panel of the first instance court ordered detention on remand against four defendants and house detention against two accused. Appeals by the defendants against the security measures were rejected by a mixed panel of the Supreme Court on 18 December.

The decision to retry the case and the introduction of the measure of detention on remand sparked harsh criticism from senior Kosovo officials, misguided efforts by the Pristina authorities to meddle with the judicial process and attempts to interfere with the judicial process.

On 23 November, a panel of one local and two EULEX judges at the Pristina District Court acquitted Aleksandar Bulatović due to insufficient evidence. He had been charged with war crimes.

On 19 December, a panel of one local and two EULEX judges at the Supreme Court replaced the measure of house detention with detention on remand for two months against Sabit Geci, Rustem Geci and Hetem Geci charged with war crimes (two of them members of the Kosovo security force). The case is at the indictment stage. The indictment was filed in mid-December. The initial hearing on the confirmation of indictment is scheduled for 17 January.

Organized crime and corruption

On 19 October, a mixed panel of two EULEX judges and one local judge at the Pristina District Court found Kolë Puka (a former judge) guilty of issuing unlawful judicial decisions, abusing official position or authority, money-laundering and fraud. He was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment and was prohibited from holding public office or practising law for three years after having served the sentence. His two co-defendants, Zef Marleku and Lon Palushaj, were acquitted of all charges.

On 4 November, a EULEX judge at Pejë/Peć District Court ordered detention on remand against four individuals who were arrested in a joint operation by EULEX and the Kosovo police. The four suspects were charged with accepting stolen goods and fraud. A large amount of gold was seized during the operation.

On 12 November, three individuals were arrested, including a German citizen, in a joint operation by EULEX police and the Kosovo police, for alleged misuse of €1.4 million in the so-called passports corruption affair. The case is being prosecuted by a team comprising one EULEX prosecutor and one local district prosecutor.

On 16 November, a EULEX prosecutor from the Special Prosecution Office of Kosovo filed an indictment against member of Parliament Fatmir Limaj and six co-suspects for organized crime and other corruption-related offences. Following the leak of wiretapped conversations of senior politicians, part of the indictment material, the government sent a draft law on interception of telecommunications to the Assembly of Kosovo on 14 December. The draft law puts the Kosovo Intelligence Agency in the position to monitor all lawful investigative interceptions before they are handed to the prosecution. EULEX had been involved in the drafting of the law from the beginning, insisting that there must be a separation of judicial and intelligence interception.

On 6 December, a EULEX judge at Gjilan/Gnjilane District Court confirmed the indictment against Bajram Sabedini and three other persons accused of organized crime and smuggling of migrants.

On 7 December, a panel of one EULEX and two Kosovo judges at Prizren District Court acquitted Resmije Osmani and Gëzim Rexhaj of charges connected to money-laundering, tax evasion, smuggling of goods and the misuse of economic authorization.

On 13 December, eight suspects were arrested and eight locations searched in a joint EULEX-Kosovo police investigation, supervised by a EULEX prosecutor from the Special Prosecution Office of Kosovo. The suspects were charged with organized crime and smuggling of migrants.

On 24 December, the Pristina District Court confirmed the indictment against four defendants, including two former Ministers of Culture, Astrit Haraqija and Valton Beqiri, accused of abuse of official duty or authority. The case is being prosecuted by a local prosecutor.

On 28 December, a EULEX judge at the Pristina District Court rejected the application for termination of detention on remand of Ilir Tolaj (former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health). The defendant is accused of abuse of official position or authority. On 10 January, the trial against the defendants started.

Other key cases and issues

On 16 October, EULEX police arrested three individuals suspected of being members of a terrorist organization that claimed responsibility for three attacks on Serbian police in Dobrosin (crossing point 65), in Bujanovac municipality in Serbia. Two of the three individuals are suspected of having taken part in the most recent attack, which occurred on 7 October 2012. The case is being prosecuted by a EULEX prosecutor from the Special Prosecution Office of Kosovo. On 17 October, a EULEX pretrial judge at Gjilan/Gnjilane District Court ordered detention on remand for the arrested individuals. On 18 October, in a joint operation, EULEX and Kosovo police arrested a fourth person, in connection

with the same case. The EULEX pretrial judge ordered detention on remand for the fourth suspect.

On 6 November, a EULEX judge partially confirmed the indictment against five defendants in the so-called March 2008 riots case. The indictment was fully confirmed against a sixth defendant and dismissed against another. The defendants were charged in relation to the unlawful attack on Mitrovica District Court on 17 March 2008. The events led to the death of one UNMIK International Police Officer and injuries to many others, including KFOR soldiers.

On 7 November, the Supreme Court, in a panel composed of three local judges and two EULEX judges, reduced the sentence of Osman Zyberaj from 25 to 15 years of imprisonment on the grounds that he was in a state of diminished mental capacity at the time he had committed the crimes. The defendant was charged with the murder of Hasan Rustemi and the attempted murder of his brother Nazim Rustemi in October 2005. Hasan Rustemi was known as the chief of the Serbian intelligence service for Kosovo in the 1980s.

On 8 November, the Supreme Court, rejected four appeals on behalf of three defendants suspected of terrorism against the ruling of the Gjilan/Gnjilane District Court, extending detention on remand and house detention.

On 9 November, a panel of two local judges and one EULEX judge at the Pristina District Court sentenced Arben Sfishta to six years of imprisonment for kidnapping.

On 14 November, a mixed panel of one local and two EULEX judges at Pejë/Peć District Court sentenced Driton Kelmendi to 23 years of imprisonment for aggravated murder.

On 4 December, a panel of three local and two EULEX judges at the Supreme Court rejected an appeal filed by Amir Sopa, who had been sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment on charges of terrorism.

On 17 December, a mixed panel of two EULEX and one local judge completed the trial against Sadik Abazi et al, also known as the Bllaca 2 murder case. All five defendants were found guilty and sentenced to between 7 and 15 years of imprisonment.

Special Investigative Task Force

The Special Investigative Task Force was set up in 2011 to conduct a full criminal investigation into the allegations contained in the report of the Council of Europe Special Rapporteur, Dick Marty. In his report, he addressed a wide range of alleged crimes, including abduction, detention, mistreatment and murder, in addition to the much-publicized allegations of organ harvesting and trafficking. In the report, the Task Force provided information on its activities over the past quarter, noting, however, its constraints in releasing operational details so as to

maintain the confidentiality and integrity of the investigation and to protect potential witnesses.

Over the past three months, the Task Force has continued to collect evidence from institutional sources, enhance cooperation with third States and conduct operational investigative activities. Information collected thus far from institutional sources has provided helpful background material for the more operational phase of the investigation, which includes witness interviews with individuals who may have information relevant to the Task Force inquiry.

As in the previous quarter, the Lead Prosecutor of the Special Investigative Task Force, Clint Williamson, continued his discussions with relevant countries regarding cooperation and witness relocation matters.

On 17 and 18 October, Mr. Williamson travelled to Serbia to meet with officials of the newly formed Government in Belgrade. He held positive and fruitful discussions with President Tomislav Nikolić and Prime Minister Ivica Dačić, as well as with the State War Crimes Prosecutor, Vladimir Vukčević. In their respective meetings, and in subsequent public statements, President Nikolić and Prime Minister Dačić both voiced their strong support for the work of the Special Investigative Task Force and pledged continued full cooperation by Government of Serbia institutions. Discussions with Vukčević focused on the ongoing operational cooperation between his office and Williamson's team of investigators and prosecutors.

On 13 and 14 November, Williamson met in Vienna with senior officials from the Austrian foreign affairs, justice and interior ministries, who confirmed their willingness to provide tangible support in areas of critical importance to the investigation. Immediately afterwards, on 15 and 16 November, Williamson went on to Skopje where he met with senior officials, including Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, the Ministers of Justice and the Interior and representatives of the Department of European Affairs and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All noted that they want to actively contribute to stability and reconciliation in the region and cooperate with European Union initiatives. The positive reception, which came from representatives across the political spectrum, serves as another example of the broad support throughout the region for the Special Investigative Task Force, adding to the high-level political commitments received in previous visits to Pristina, Belgrade, Tirana and Podgorica.

During his most recent periodic reporting to European Union member States, the States reconfirmed their full support for the Special Investigative Task Force at the highest levels, including areas such as witness protection, information exchange and staffing. Williamson also met with representatives at various European Union institutions in Brussels.

Williamson also had follow-up meetings with senior officials in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enlargement, who have been extremely supportive of the Special Investigative Task Force and have continued to play a

very constructive role in facilitating cooperation by regional governments. As already expressed in the Commission communication on the enlargement strategy and main challenges 2012-2013, which was issued on 10 October, the European Commission reaffirmed its full support for the ongoing investigation by the Task Force. Likewise, Williamson had follow-up meetings with key members of the European Parliament. As with the European Commission, the Parliament has expressed a continuing willingness to assist the Task Force through its resolutions and other actions.

The European Union determination to support the Task Force was further underlined on 11 December in the context of the yearly discussion of European Union ministers on the Enlargement and Stabilization and Association Process. The conclusions of the Council of the European Union made explicit reference to the Task Force and underlined “the need to address impunity and ensure accountability, as well as fully cooperate and support the work of [the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia] and the EULEX Special Investigative Task Force” and called for active cooperation with EULEX, including with the Task Force.

Property rights

During the reporting period the Kosovo Property Claims Commission held two sessions. Between October 2012 and January 2013, it adjudicated 1,351 mainly inter-ethnic property claims. The total number of adjudicated claims stands at 35,109, with 7,261 still to be resolved.

The Kosovo Property Agency Appeal Panel of the Supreme Court decided 64 cases between 1 October and 31 December 2012. The total number of adjudicated claims stands at 229 decisions, with 196 pending.

The backlog of more than 600 unregistered cases in the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court has been reduced to zero. Modalities are being implemented at the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court in order to prevent such a backlog from reoccurring; EULEX has also advised to moving forward expeditiously with the appointment of the Chief Registrar and Deputy Chief Registrar by the Kosovo Judicial Council, whose absence has contributed to undermining the functionality of the Special Chamber, including its Registry. Progress is being made in resolving the translation backlog through better use and management of resources and the likelihood of temporary additional translation resources by the Kosovo counterparts.

On 28 December, a mixed panel of the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court, presided over by a EULEX judge, rejected the claims of two socially owned enterprises against the Visoki Dečani Monastery. The cases relate to donation contracts made between Serbia and the Visoki Dečani Monastery in 1997. The decision has been strongly opposed by the League of Kosovo Historians and by

Dečan/Dečani Mayor Rasim Selmanaj. On 10 January, approximately 500 people protested against the decision.

Legislation

Kosovo has undertaken an important judicial reform, with the entry into force on 1 January 2013 of the Law on Courts, a new Criminal Code and a new Criminal Procedural Code. In addition, further changes in the judicial and prosecutorial system may be expected since five key legislations (Law on Courts, the State Prosecutor, the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, the Kosovo Judicial Council and the Special Prosecution Office of Kosovo) are in the legislative strategy for 2013 and will be possibly further amended.

In the wake of the reform in place since 1 January 2013, the following important developments have taken place, which have all been monitored and supported by EULEX:

- (a) The Law on Courts, which became effective on 1 January 2013, envisions a new court structure. The structure now consists of three main levels; seven basic courts, one Court of Appeals and a Supreme Court;
- (b) In anticipation of the implementation of the new Law on Courts, the Kosovo Judicial Council conducted reassignments of judges and appointments of court presidents. The process (which started with consultation meetings with the judges at all the courts) was monitored by EULEX. The two EULEX Kosovo Judicial Council members participated in it in their executive capacity. The Kosovo Judicial Council in total appointed eight presidents of courts (seven presidents of basic courts and one president of the Court of Appeals). The ninth appointment, the President of the Basic Court of Pristina was cancelled upon advice from EULEX since the candidate did not fulfil the basic requirements. Subsequently, on 10 December, the Kosovo Judicial Council decided on a new candidate for the President for the Basic Court of Pristina as well as the remaining President of the Basic Court of Mitrovica;
- (c) On 26 November, the Kosovo Judicial Council adopted a decision on maintaining the same composition of panels in EULEX cases after the entry into force of the new Law on Courts;
- (d) According to the new law on State prosecutors, the 22 prosecutors appointed by the President of Kosovo (among which there are three minority representatives) to different offices throughout Kosovo were reassigned to the new structure, which became operational on 1 January 2013. The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council selected the prosecutors that were transferred to the new appellate prosecution office. EULEX monitored several interviews for prosecutor positions (including one minority community candidate) in the ongoing recruitment process.

The new Criminal Procedural Code of Kosovo, together with a new Criminal Code entered into force on 1 January 2013. The Criminal Procedural Code was promulgated by the President of Kosovo on 21 December 2012 and published in the Official Gazette of Kosovo on 27 December 2012, which did not allow sufficient time for training of the local judges and prosecutors before its entry into force. This would have been particularly relevant considering that the new Criminal Procedural

Code introduces a number of key changes from the previous one. For instance, the role of the police has significantly increased in the investigative phase, while the role of the injured party is more elaborated as the injured party can now have an increased access to the evidence. The detention regime has been amended and new deadlines are to be implemented. The confirmation stage has been removed. One of the issues currently faced by the judiciary is that the transitional provisions are contradictory to one another and there is a degree of uncertainty as to whether the new code is immediately applicable to all ongoing criminal cases.

The draft Law on Extended Powers of Confiscation of Assets Acquired by Criminal Offence, an European Commission feasibility study benchmark, which had passed the first reading at the Assembly after lengthy discussions at the ministerial level with the participation of EULEX legal experts over the previous months, still awaits adoption.

On 16 November, the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council unanimously approved the draft strategy on inter-institutional cooperation in the fight against organized crime and corruption. The development of the strategy is important for two reasons. First, it signals that the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council is taking steps towards fulfilling its policymaking role. Second, it serves as a platform for the development of cooperation between law enforcement bodies. The strategy was prepared in cooperation with EULEX.

EULEX continued to facilitate the rendering of international legal assistance with non-recognizing States. For instance, at the request of the Slovak authorities, and in agreement with the Kosovo authorities, EULEX facilitated the appropriate transmission of a request for extradition from the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic to the Ministry of Justice of Kosovo, as well as the subsequent surrender of the individual from the Kosovo police to the Slovak police. Furthermore, EULEX facilitated transmission of another request for extradition from the Greek authorities to the Kosovo Ministry of Justice. The request is still in process at the Ministry of Justice.

During the reporting period the recruitment procedure for the position of Director of the Dubrava Prison was monitored by EULEX. The position has been vacant since 31 August 2012, when the Ministry of Justice decided to suspend the Director of Dubravë/Dubrava Prison and to relocate three of his deputies to other detention facilities as the result of violations of security procedures and the attempted/prevented escape of top-risk prisoners. Nine applicants were

interviewed on 15 November, but none of them was found adequately qualified for the position. Following EULEX advice, the position was re-advertised.

The overcrowding of detention facilities continues to be an issue for the Kosovo Correctional Service. EULEX is currently working with the respective facility directors to prepare possible short-term solutions and long-term options to ease the overcrowding, especially at Dubrava Prison.

EULEX provided advice on three international agreements (on extradition, mutual legal assistance and transfer of sentenced persons) concluded with Albania, as well as on several other agreements of the same type for which negotiations have been initiated with Montenegro and Slovenia.

Due to the refurbishment of the Pristina Basic Court² starting in January 2013, court facilities will be closed for the duration of the works. This left EULEX without suitable courtroom facilities for holding court hearings for the Special Prosecution Office of Kosovo and other high-profile sensitive cases. Based on the planning for 2013, the Kosovo Judicial Council found alternate court facilities for a period of at least five months in order to conduct all sessions and court hearings related to those cases. EULEX and the Kosovo Judicial Council will continue to work together on a solution.

EULEX participated in the development of the new crime prevention strategy for the Kosovo police (2012-2017) in a working group. The anticipation is that the strategy will help to prioritize resources and provide for strategic direction in the prevention of crime.

Other key cases and issues

On 14 December, the launch of the latest edition of Kosovo 2.0, entitled "Sex", was interrupted when a group of approximately 20 to 30 men rushed into the venue intentionally causing material damage and disrupting the function. At the same time, approximately 100 protestors gathered to show their disapproval of the magazine launch, with several resorting to religious chanting. Later that night, two foreign embassy interns randomly passing by the venue were attacked. The incident was condemned by domestic and international organizations alike. EULEX advised the Kosovo police on undertaking dynamic threat assessments and monitored the launch of an investigation surrounding the event.

The north

The reporting period has been marred by a number of security incidents that demonstrate the volatile security environment in which the Mission continues to operate. The Kosovo Serb community's opposition to the implementation of the

² The district courts have become basic courts under the new legislation that came into effect on 1 January 2013.

integrated management of crossing points agreement, and the arrest of a Kosovo Serb at gate 1, following an arrest warrant issued against him in connection with a vehicle theft case in 2000, have contributed to a period of heightened tension in the north of Kosovo. His arrest on 28 October 2012 led to approximately 400 Kosovo Serbs staging a peaceful protest in northern Mitrovica on 31 October. He was released from custody on 29 October.

In addition, the return of ethnic Albanian displaced persons to the Kroi i Vitakut/Brđani neighbourhood of northern Mitrovica and Zvečan/Zveçan continued to generate tension between the local Albanian and Serb communities. On 21 November, a detonation, which is believed to have been caused by a hand grenade, was heard close to a house under construction in the ethnically mixed area. No injuries were reported. Kosovo police requested EULEX support, and formed police units were mobilized and remained within the proximity of the area for a period of approximately one month. The incident occurred following tensions the previous day, when separate groups of Kosovo Serbs and Albanians started throwing stones at each other after UNMIK Administration Mitrovica inspectors ruled that construction had to be halted. Between 5 and 10 shots were fired by an unknown suspect during the incident and Kosovo police intervened to de-escalate the situation, thus preventing further confrontation. On 22 November, Kroi i Vitakut/Brđani was the scene of a further escalation of tensions when around 200 Kosovo Serbs gathered to oppose the reconstruction of Kosovo Albanian houses. The negotiations of Kosovo police north police station officers with representatives of the protesters ended without any success. Tensions in the area remain high, and an escalation of the situation can be expected when construction resumes.

On 24 and 29 November, two unexploded hand grenades were found within the perimeter of gate 31 in Zubin Potok. EULEX dispatched a team of the Task Force Mitrovica for crime scene investigations. The discovery of the hand grenades represents a serious threat to EULEX and other staff and assets in the area.

Dialogue implementation

On 10 December, implementation of the first step of the integrated management of crossing points agreement began. Gates 1 and 3 (Rudnica/Jarinjë and Merdarë/ Merdare crossing points) began functioning in line with the agreement. EULEX is present in the capacity of its mandate and is a part of the process, but the gates are manned by members of the relevant Serbia and Kosovo customs and police authorities, in accordance with their agreement.

The first step was implemented against the background of the Serbian community leaders in north Kosovo rejecting the implementation of the integrated management of crossing points agreement and claiming that it would lead to the creation of an international border with Serbia. In addition, in the aftermath of the opening of the first two crossing points it became evident that

customs procedures on goods transported to northern Kosovo from Serbia are a contentious issue. EULEX participated in implementation group meetings held in Brussels in order to resolve pending issues. On 18 December, the Belgrade and Pristina delegations in Brussels reached an understanding on an interim solution on the issue of customs procedures to be applied at gate 1 (Rudnica/Jarinjë crossing point).

Despite the arrangement reached by the parties in Brussels, representatives of the north Kosovo Serb business community decided to protest against the agreement across north Kosovo on a three-day-per-week basis, starting on 24 December, when demonstrations blocking roads for a few hours were held in northern Mitrovica, Zvečan/Zvečan and Leposaviq/Leposavić (in the vicinity of gate 1). The protests subsided on 28 December, although other localized protests in the Zubin Potok area persisted.

On 31 December, gates 5 (Končulj/Dheu i Bardhë) and 31 (Bërnjak/Tabalije) began functioning in line with the integrated management of crossing points agreement.

During the reporting period, the Mission was also actively involved in supporting the Kosovo police in the selection process for a new multi-ethnic police unit that would have the responsibility to protect religious sites. The establishment of the new multi-ethnic unit was discussed at the second meeting of the European Union-facilitated dialogue that was held on 7 November. Prime Minister Thaçi confirmed the establishment of the unit at the third meeting, held on 4 December, in the framework of the European Union-facilitated dialogue. The recruitment process is currently taking place; however, the challenge of identifying suitable candidates for the command role needs to be addressed.

As part of a full-scale project undertaken in accordance with the implementation of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue agreement on civil registry books, the number of certified copies of original civil/religious registry books has reached a total of 1,190, including the total number of copies certified under the small-scale project completed in the Serbian city of Niš in 2012.

Approved by Xavier Bout De Marnhac

Head of Mission

Annex II

Composition and strength of the police and military liaison components of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Composition and strength of the police component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
(as at 11 January 2013)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number</i>
Belgium	1
Croatia	1
Germany	1
Hungary	1
Italy	1
Turkey	1
Ukraine	1
Total	7

Composition and strength of the military liaison component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
(as at 11 January 2013)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number</i>
Czech Republic	1
Poland	1
Norway	1
Republic of Moldova	1
Romania	1
Turkey	1
Ukraine	2
Total	8