



**ELECTION OBSERVATION DELEGATION TO
THE GENERAL ELECTION
IN KOSOVO**

(12 December 2010, 9 January 2011)

Report by

**Doris Pack, Chair of the Delegation
27 January 2011**

Annexes: A - List of participants and programme of Mission of 10-13 December 2010
B - Statement of the European Parliament Election Observation Mission on 13 December
2010
C - List of participants and programme of Mission of 7-10 January 2011
D - Statement of the European Parliament Election Observation Mission on 10 January
2011

I. Introduction

On 18 November 2010, the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament authorised the sending of an Election Observation Delegation to observe the general election in Kosovo on 12 December.

The general election was the first to be carried out under the sole responsibility of the Kosovo authorities; it was also the first since Kosovo declared independence in February 2008.

The general election was initially foreseen for 2011. The resignation, however, of President Fatmir Sejdiu on 27 September 2010 as a result of a Constitutional Court Decision and the subsequent political turbulence caused this snap election. The Constitutional Court had ruled that President Sejdiu had been in breach of the Constitution because he was holding the presidency of his LDK Party while being Kosovo President at the same time.

The European Parliament Election Observation delegation was composed of seven Members: Doris PACK (EPP, Germany), Eduard KUKAN (EPP, Slovakia), Francesco DE ANGELIS (S&D, Italy), Jutta STEINRUCK (S&D, Germany), Fiona HALL (ALDE, United Kingdom), Jelko KACIN (ALDE, Slovenia), and Ulrike LUNACEK (Greens/EFA, Austria). Ms Doris PACK was appointed chair of the delegation.

The delegation was in the country from 10 until 13 December and supported by the European Union Election Expert Mission to Kosovo, which the European Commission had deployed due to the absence of a long-term international election observation mission. The European Union Expert Mission was tasked to assess the election process and to offer recommendations with a view to further improving the electoral process.

The delegation came back from 7 until 10 January 2011 (Ulrike LUNACEK and Jutta STEINRUCK) for the re-run of the elections in the entire municipalities of Skenderaj/Srbica, Glogovac/Glocovac and Decan/Dečani as well as in one polling centre in each Malishevo/Mališevo and Lipjan/Lipljan.

It is worth noting that the OSCE mission in the country, which forms an integral component of the UN Mission to Kosovo (UNMIK) since 1999, assisted the Kosovo Central Election Commission in the preparations for this general election. However, due to political constraints since independence, it did not organise the election nor deploy an observation mission.

The European Parliament delegation followed the general rules of the OSCE methodology in the evaluation procedure and assessed the election for its compliance with OSCE and other international standards for democratic elections, as well as with the legislation of Kosovo.

The delegation also conducted its election observation mission in accordance with the Declaration of Principles of International Election Observation and Code of Conduct adopted at the United Nations in 2005 and endorsed by the European Parliament in 2007. Members of the delegation signed the Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament Election Observation Delegations, in accordance with the decision of the Conference of Presidents of 10 December 2009.

II. On the Programme

During the first visit from 10 until 13 December 2010, the delegation started the programme in the country with a preparatory briefing by Ambassador Daviddi from the European Union Liaison Office (ECLO) and the European Union Expert Mission. This was followed by a dinner with OSCE Ambassador Werner Almhofer, who provided the delegation with insight about the preparations in Central Election Commission.

On the following day, the delegation met with EU Special Representative Pieter Feith, the EU Ambassadors in Kosovo, and Mr. De Marnhac, the Head of the EU Rule-of-Law Mission in Kosovo, in separate meetings. EUSR Pieter Feith informed the delegation about the diplomatic poll watch, which would be coordinated by his office.

The security situation was a specific topic in these meetings after the fatal incident during the election campaign in northern Kosovo. EULEX HoM De Marnhac and Deputy HoM Sparkes encouraged the delegation to observe the elections in northern Kosovo. However, it was agreed that the team, which would observe the elections in this part of the country, would cross the *Ibar* River in EULEX vehicles and be escorted by EULEX all the time.

Furthermore, the delegation had an exchange of views with the international and local non-governmental organisations observing the elections. In the afternoon, the delegation met with representatives of all relevant parties including those of the three newly established parties.

On Election Day, the delegation was deployed in four groups across the country including northern Kosovo. Altogether, the delegation observed elections in almost 100 polling stations at over 35 polling centres in the municipalities of Prishtinë/Pristina, Gračanice/Gracanica, Prizren, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica including northern Kosovo and Gjiilan/Gnjilane. The delegation also observed the counting process in four polling stations.

On election day night, the delegation had an exchange of information with the ECLO Head of Mission Daviddi and the European Union experts, who had stayed in close contact with all other observation efforts including the EUSR diplomatic watch during the day and reported about the irregularities.

On 13 December morning, the delegation met with President Valdete Daka from the Central Election Commission, who said that the preliminary results would only be available in the evening of that day. Afterwards, the delegation held a well-attended press conference. Ms Doris Pack read out the attached press statement (Annex B) followed by a question-and-answer session, in which all members participated.

It is worth noting that the delegation was the first observation mission to issue a statement.

During the second visit from 7 until 10 January 2011 the programme of the delegation was similar. After a preparatory briefing by the European Union Expert Mission, the delegation met with EU Special Representative Pieter Feith and Mr. De Marnhac, Head of the EU Rule-of-Law Mission in Kosovo, on the following day. EUSR Feith informed the delegation about the repeated diplomatic poll watch.

Furthermore, the delegation had an exchange of views with the international and local non-governmental organisations who had also observed the elections in December. The programme for the day finished with the meeting with Central Election Commission President Valdete Daka.

On Election Day, the delegation was deployed in two groups (in Skenderaj/Srbica and in Glllogovc/Glocovac) and observed the elections in almost 30 polling stations in around 10 polling centres. The delegation also observed the counting process in two polling stations.

On election day night, the delegation had an exchange of information with the ECLO Head of Mission Daviddi and the European Union experts, who had stayed in close contact with all other observation efforts including the EUSR diplomatic watch during the day.

On 10 January morning, the delegation met again EUSR Pieter Feith who with his team gave a presentation of the remarks/complaints the diplomatic watch teams had reported, and ECLO Head of Mission Renzo Daviddi. A meeting with Central Election Commission President Valdete Daka then followed. Afterwards, the delegation held a well-attended press conference. Ms Ulrike Lunacek read out the attached press statement (Annex D) followed by a question-and-answer session.

III. On the general observations

The election on 12 December took place in generally calm and good atmosphere. Overall, the delegation noted some improvements compared to the November 2009 municipal elections in terms

of organisation, electoral conduct and voter turnout¹, which was slightly higher than at the 2009 municipal elections. However, the turnout in Skenderaj/Srbica, Decane/Decan and Glllogovc/Glocovac was twice as high as the country-wide average turnout and reached an unrealistic level of around 90 per cent. Furthermore, the situation in some Kosovo Serb municipalities South of *Ibar* was chaotic.

According to the Central Election Commission, the voter turnout was 47.8 per cent (and 46 per cent in the Kosovo Serb municipalities South of *Ibar*, which was a substantial increase compared to the 2009 municipal elections).

However, the delegation regretted that participation in the Kosovo Serb municipalities in northern Kosovo was non-existent. This did not come as a surprise after the Serbian government had announced on 10 November 2010 that conditions had not been met by Kosovo Serbs to go to the polls. In order to offer citizens the possibility to vote in the three municipalities North of *Ibar* a number of mobile polling stations were used on Election Day.

The delegation noted a number of recurring technical problems with regard to the UV lamps and ink, which was part of a mechanism established to prevent multiple voting, as well as family/group voting and not following the proper procedures. However, diplomatic poll watchers and local observation missions reported serious allegations of fraud in a number of municipalities. Therefore, the delegation was cautious in the statement and differentiated between the generally acceptable election process in some parts of the country and the developments in the Drenica region as well as in northern Kosovo, where the elections were boycotted and three polling stations had to be closed due to intimidating obstruction.

It should be noted that, in addition to the delegation, around 250 diplomats and national Embassy staff as well as EUSR and ECLO watched the opening, polling and counting of these elections coordinated by the EUSR office in a so called diplomatic watch mission. Furthermore, ENEMO (European Network of Election Monitoring Organisations) and the Kosovo organisation Democracy in Action, which was at that time a coalition of 11 Kosovo NGOs, observed the elections.

In their first reactions, they noted some irregularities during the polling and counting process such as allowing for group voting, not proper checking of identification documents, poorly conducting the count and having a considerable number of unstamped ballots. Problems were also noted regarding the inclusion of names of deceased persons on the voters list.

Much of the attention on the Election Day night and Monday morning focused on the alleged irregularities in Skenderaj/Srbica and Glllogoc/Glogovac. The voter turnout reached 94 and 87 per cent respectively in these two municipalities, which is twice the turnout across Kosovo at this election. It was also reported that the ballots in the box significantly exceeded the number of signatures in the voters' book in polling stations.

On 13 December in the evening after the departure of the delegation, the Central Election Commission released the following preliminary results (without conditional votes and without giving numbers of invalid votes):

Party	Number of votes	Percentage
PKD - DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF KOSOVO	238,959	33.5%
LDK - DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OF KOSOVO	168,120	23.6%
Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! / SELF-DETERMINATION MOVEMENT	86,924	12.2%
AAK - ALLIANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF KOSOVO	76,859	10.8%

¹ It should be noted that a European Parliament ad-hoc delegation had watched the municipal polls on 15 November 2009.

AKR-PD-PSD-PPI-PPK-PNDSH-PGJK	50,720	7.1%
<i>Below the 5 per cent threshold:</i>		
LDD - DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OF DARDANIA	23,337	3.3%
FER -NEW SPIRIT PARTY	15,559	2.2%
<i>Kosovo Serbian and other minority Parties (where the 5 per cent threshold does not apply :</i>		
SLS - INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY (SERB)	12,525	1.8%
JSL - UNITED SERBIAN LIST	5,010	0.7%
VAKAT - COALITION VAKAT	4,771	0.7%
KTB - KOSOVA TÜRK BİRLİĞİ (KOSOVA TURKISH UNION)	1,833	0.3%
Number of Voters on FVL	1,630,636	
Expected Total Valid Votes	712,526	
Turnout (by signatures)	47.8%	

It should be noted that the publication of the preliminary results caused widespread dissatisfaction among all but one major party. Altogether the Election Appeals and Complaint Panel received 365 complaints. On 16 December, based on the Election Appeals and Complaint Panel decisions, the Central Election Commission concluded that complete re-runs would have to take place in three municipalities (Skenderaj/Srbica, Glogovc/Glogovac and Decan/Decane) and partial re-runs (in one polling centre) in two municipalities (Lipjan/Lipljan and Malishevë/Malisevo) on 9 January 2011.

On 18 December, the Central Election Commission ordered a recount of the ballots in almost 40 per cent of all polling stations.

Repeat elections of 9 January 2011

The repeat elections in Skenderaj/Srbica, Glogovc/Glogovac and Decan/Decane municipalities were conducted on 9 January 2011. The delegation was informed by international and local interlocutors of serious electoral violations at the 12 December elections, which only surfaced after the delegations departure.

On 9 January the delegation observed improvements in technical organisation (e.g. that quality of lamps for detecting the invisible ink as well as the fact that all bottles with this ink had been checked and marked with the number of the polling station where they would be used). However, the delegation noticed again widespread group and family voting and the improper following of procedures in the polling stations. It was reported again that polling station commissioners allowed malpractices like not checking for ID and multiple cases of permitting persons to cast more than one vote. Electricity cuts were also observed.

The delegation noticed that the number of observers of one political party was in many polling stations higher than the allowed two observers. It also noticed intimidating behaviour on the part of some of these local observers from political parties.

Diplomats and national Embassy staff coordinated by the EUSR, ENEMO and Democracy in Action as well as the ECLO office also observed the elections, as it was the case in December.

In their first reactions, they noted many irregularities during the polling and counting process such as allowing for group voting, multiple voting, not using the ink and lamps properly and poorly conducting the count. It was reported that some teams of international observers and one Democracy in Action team had to be withdrawn from the polling centres because of intimidation.

The preliminary turnout was massively lower than in the elections in December (35 per cent in Decan/Decane, 59 per cent in Glogovac/Glogovac and 62 per cent in Skenderaj/Srbica), which is a clear indication for ballot staffing at the elections on 12 December in these municipalities. The preliminary results from 10 January, including the repeat election but excluding Mitrovica municipality, were as follows: PDK 32%, LDK - 24.7%, VETEVENDOSJE - 2.6%, AAK - 11.2%, AKR - 7.35, LDD - 2.2%, FER - 2.2%.

On 11 December the Central Election Commission ordered to recount 111 out of 185 ballot boxes of the 9 January rerun.

It should be noted that, on 6 January 2011, the Supreme Court decided to annul the results in Mitrovica followed by a decision of the Central Election Commission to organise a re-run of the elections in this municipality on 23 January 2011. This repeat election in Mitrovica concerned around 5.3 per cent of the total electorate. The European Parliament Election Observation Delegation did not observe this second rerun. However, around 40 teams from the diplomatic election watch coordinated by the EUSR and Democracy in Action local observers were present. Since public confidence in the electoral process had suffered in the first two election rounds, the turnout dropped from over 37 per cent on the 12 December election to below 27 per cent on 23 January. Overall, international and local observers reported a lower number of irregularities at this second rerun, which may also be the result of the large number of observers. The Election Appeal and Complaint Panel received 5 complaints at the time of writing this report.

It is also worth noting that the Central Election Commission had not announced the final results by the time of writing this report due to the repeat elections on 9 and 23 January 2011 and the recount of almost 40 per cent of the ballot boxes.

IV. On the EU - Kosovo Relations

In the conclusions of 19/20 June 2008, the European Council reconfirmed that the EU remains committed to playing a leading role in ensuring the stability of Kosovo and also repeated that Kosovo has a clear European perspective.

Since 2008 the country has participated in the Stabilisation and Association Process with biannual plenary meetings of the so-called Stabilisation and Association Process Tracking Mechanism.

In October 2009, the Commission presented its feasibility study on Kosovo (Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "Kosovo - Fulfilling its European Perspective"). The main message was to bring Kosovo's citizens closer to the EU. This should be achieved through a visa dialogue with the aim of eventual visa liberalisation when Kosovo has fulfilled the necessary conditions. Furthermore, the Commission proposed the beginning of preparations for a comprehensive trade agreement and to include cross-border cooperation in the scope of its financial assistance.

In its Enlargement Strategy 2010-2011 of 9 November 2010 the Commission stated that it would start the visa dialogue shortly and suggested negotiating directives for a trade agreement.

However, the Council stated in its conclusions of 14 December 2010 that the visa dialogue could only start once all conditions are met and only after another assessment by the Commission. Therefore, the Council has yet to give its green light for the start of the visa dialogue. With regard to the negotiations for a trade agreement, the Council postponed this altogether for the moment.

Overall, the EU's involvement has taken place through the following instruments:

- The EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX), which has been the largest civilian mission ever launched under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP);
- The EU Special Representative, who is also the International Civilian Representative (ICR); and

- The Commission through its European Commission Liaison Office, which is tasked with providing support through the Instrument of Pre-accession (IPA) focusing on advancing key political and economic reforms.

V. On the Political Context

The assembly of Kosovo unilaterally declared Kosovo an independent and sovereign state on 17 February 2008. By 25 January 2011, Kosovo's independence was recognised by 74 countries including 22 EU Member States. Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Slovakia and Spain have not yet done so.

In the declaration of independence, Kosovo committed itself to the principles of democracy, secularism, multi-ethnicity and to the obligations of Martti Ahtisaari's Comprehensive Settlement Proposal. The new Constitution, which was adopted in June 2008, is based on the Comprehensive Settlement Proposal and envisaged a significant role for the European Union in Kosovo. It also provided for an International Civilian Representative as ultimate supervisory authority with regard to the implementation of the Comprehensive Settlement Proposal.

At the same time, Serbia has continued to regard Kosovo as its province. However, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on Kosovo's declaration of independence of 22 July 2010 and the subsequent adoption of the UN General Assembly consensus resolution on 9 September 2010 have created the opportunity for a first direct dialogue between the two countries since Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence. This dialogue will be facilitated by EUHR/VP Ashton. Provided this dialogue leads to practical arrangements, this may eventually lead to a stabilisation in northern Kosovo.

The resignation of President Sejdiu on 27 September 2010 - following a Constitutional Court ruling that he breached the constitution by holding both the Kosovo presidency and the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) Party leadership - and subsequent political manoeuvres by Prime Minister Thaci's Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) destabilised the ruling coalition between PDK and LDK. An initial political agreement had foreseen a general election on 13 February 2011. However, after the LDK withdrew its ministers from the Government in October - as a result of attempts by the larger coalition partner PDK to privatise the telecom operator without LDK's consent - the opposition New Kosovo Alliance Party (AKR) initiated a vote of no confidence. This motion was approved by the Assembly with a majority of 66 votes on 2 November.

Consequently, on 2 November, the acting President, Jakup Krasniqi announced the dissolution of the Assembly and called an early general election for 12 December 2010.

Despite the political turmoil, it is worth noting that the dissolution of Parliament and the announcement of early election took place in an orderly manner and in full respect of the constitutional provisions.

VI. On the Political Parties

Due to the introduction of a five-per cent threshold in the Law on General Elections in 2008, the political landscape has consolidated since then. Before the general elections the political spectrum consisted of six major Kosovo Albanian political parties and one major Kosovo Serbian party. Just before the general election, three new parties have been established: two mainly Kosovo Albanian Parties and one Kosovo Serbian list.

However, the 5 per cent threshold does not apply to the Kosovo Serb and other minority parties.

It should be noted that Kosovo Serbs from the South of *Ibar* showed an increased interest in the general election. Although the Government of the Republic of Serbia officially stated after its session on 10 November 2010 that the conditions have not been met to call upon the Kosovo Serbs to participate in the general election, it appears that it had tacitly accepted the participation of Kosovo

Serbs from the South of *Ibar* in the election. Overall, 10 seats (out of 120 seats) in Assembly are reserved for Kosovo Serbs. The other non Kosovo-Serb minorities (Bosnians, Gorani, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptians, and Turks) are represented in political parties and have ten reserved seats in the Assembly. However, the minority parties in addition to their reserved 20 seats are also eligible for participating in the allocation of the remaining 100 seats of the Assembly.

The electoral system also demands that one-third of the candidates on the lists have to be female with the objective to increase the participation of women in politics.

VII. On the Election Procedures and Voters List

This general election was based on the Law on General Elections of 2008. The Assembly adopted a limited set of amendments to the Law on General Elections in early November 2010, which were a result of last year's recommendations following the municipal elections to improve the election system. The main changes refer to the complaints and appeal procedures. It was initially planned to adopt a more comprehensive reform but this early election reduced the efforts to the most urgent topics. It should also be noted that none of the perpetrators of the violations of the 2009 municipal elections has been charged so far.

Altogether the Kosovo Assembly has 120 seats elected by secret ballot on the basis of open lists. The Constitution provides for an allocation of 100 seats on the basis of proportional representation among all political entities and for 20 seats reserved for minorities. Eligible for the allocation of the 100 seats are all Kosovo Albanian political entities who have won at least 5 per cent of all valid votes. However, the 5 per cent threshold does not apply to minority parties. Members of parliament are elected for a four-year term through a proportional party list system within a single nation-wide constituency.

Altogether the Central Election Commission certified 29 political entities (24 political parties, 3 citizens' initiatives and 2 coalitions) for the general election, which comprised 1,266 candidates. The EU Election Expert Mission criticized that the CEC had not verified the candidates' statements for compliance with the requirements from the Law on General Elections. Furthermore, EULEX criticized that candidates under criminal investigation were found on party lists.

On 1 December, the ten-day election campaign started. The Central Election Commission set the limit for campaign expenditures at 50 cents for each registered voter (which meant total expenditure to the amount of around 818,000 euro). However, the EU Election experts highlighted the Central Election Commission's lack of resources to oversee the implementation of this provision. A Code of Conduct for political parties had been signed by all except VETËVENDOSJE.

It is worth noting that a new Law on Financing Political Parties was adopted in September 2010. A major loophole of this law is that donations from companies that win public tenders were not included in the provisions for special registration.

Regarding media coverage, the Independent Media Commission issued Codes of Conduct for broadcast and print media, which obliged them to give all certified political entities fair and equitable coverage. Overall, these codes were followed relatively well.

The voting list, which is based on civil registers, comprised altogether 1,630,653 voters. This was an increase of 57,000 voters compared to the 2009 municipal elections. However, the EU Election experts and other interlocutors stated that this list included many people who are dead or had left the country.

It should be noted that the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP) has been strengthened since the 2009 municipal elections, when it was heavily criticized for its slow and non-transparent procedures.

VIII. Conclusions

The European Parliament Election Observation Mission allowed a very important message to be conveyed about the European Parliament's and EU's support for Kosovo's democratic process. All interlocutors stressed that the delegation's verdict would have great weight with citizens as well as within the region.

At the same time, the Election Observation Mission was an excellent opportunity to get first hand information about the evolution in the Kosovo authorities' capacity to manage an important process for the country's democratic stability.

In spite of the very short time frame, the Central Election Commission completed its preparations on time. It was also able to rectify some of the technical shortcomings (such as quality of indelible ink and lamps to prevent multiple voting) observed on 12 December on time for the repeat election. However, these elections were organised in haste and therefore also lacked a proper long-term election observation mission. Furthermore, many of the EU recommendations from the 2009 local elections were not implemented due to the time constraints of these early general elections.

The head of the delegation, in her presentation at the press conference on 13 December, encouraged all observers who witnessed irregularities to take advantage of the legal complaint and appeal procedures that protect the integrity of Kosovo's elections. The processes and timelines set out in Kosovo's Election law as well as in the Decree of the Central Election Commission on Early Parliamentary Elections (24 hours for complaints, 72 hours for ECAC to decide on these complaints) would provide for a transparent review of contested election results. The delegation expressed hope that the authorities as well as the political parties would demonstrate the capacity and will to properly apply the complaint and appeals procedure. It was also stressed that, unlike after the 2009 municipal elections, it would be important to identify perpetrators and prosecute them promptly in order to curtail the culture of impunity.

At the press conference on 10 January the message of the delegation was considerably more critical, in view of the severe irregularities, reported both about the 12 December and the 9 January elections. It was stated that serious shortcomings had underscored insufficient political will, including at grass root level, to conduct a genuine election in line with international standards and good electoral practice.

Furthermore, the EU Election Expert Mission as well as institutional leaders and civil society representatives raised serious concerns about the current election law. Many criticised the open list system since it would provoke abuses. They promoted a return to the closed list system. Other observers argued to divide Kosovo into several election zones as a means to reduce the impact of irregularities in certain areas on the overall outcome. Acting President Krasniqi stressed at the AFET meeting on 17 January 2011 the readiness of political parties to conduct a thorough election reform.

After the election process will be completed, the rapid formation of a new government and the election of a President will be an essential political requirement to continue Kosovo's advances towards the EU.

The EU Election Expert Mission remained in the country until 19 December and came back for the repeat elections on 9 January and 23 January 2011. It will issue a final report including recommendations for future elections. In order to further improve the electoral process and regain confidence of citizens in the electoral process it will be essential for these recommendations to be implemented this time.

The European Parliament Election Observation Delegation recommends that the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Delegation for Relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo follow closely future developments after the election.

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# **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

## **ELECTION OBSERVATION DELEGATION**

### **PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN KOSOVO**

**10-13 December 2010**

#### **PROGRAMME**

##### **Members**

Ms Doris PACK, Germany, EPP (Chair)  
Mr. Eduard KUKAN, Slovakia, EPP  
Mr. Francesco DE ANGELIS, Italy, S & D  
Ms Jutta STEINRUCK, Germany, S&D  
Ms Fiona HALL, United Kingdom, ALDE  
Mr. Jelko KACIN, Slovenia, ALDE  
Ms Ulrike LUNACEK, Austria, VERTS/ALE

##### **Secretariat**

Ewa MAHR, Administrator  
Herbert PRIBITZER, Administrator

##### **Political Groups advisors**

Theodoros GEORGITSOPOULOS, EPP  
Ciprian MATEI, S&D  
Paolo BERGERGAMASCHI, Greens/EFA

##### **Interpreters**

Annalisa VENTURI, Team leader  
Renata GIOVANELLI  
Darja FLERE  
Spomenka NINCIC-SOC  
Svetlana SPAIC  
Majlinda NISHKU  
Ilir JAKUPI  
Maksim DAIU

## Programme of meetings

### Friday, 10 December 2010

- Afternoon            Arrival of Members and transfer to European Commission Liaison Office (ECLO)
- 17.30 - 19.00**        **Entry briefing with the Head of EC Liaison Office to Kosovo and EC election experts**  
*Venue: ECLO building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; room 101*  
*Phone: +381 38 51 31 330*
- 19.15**                Transfer to the hotel and check-in  
*Venue: "ORA" Hotel,*  
*Phone: +381 38 233 709*
- 20.00**                **Dinner with OSCE Ambassador Werner Almhofer**  
*Venue: "New Liburnia "*  
*Phone: +381 38 222 719*

### Saturday, 11 December 2010

- 8.30 - 9.45**            **1. Breakfast meeting with EUSR Pieter Feith and Oliver Allen EUSR Coordinator**  
*Venue: "ORA" Hotel*  
*Phone: +381 38 233 709*
- 10.00 - 11.00**        **2. Meeting with EU Ambassadors**  
*Venue: ECLO building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; room 101*  
*Phone: +381 38 51 31 330*
- 11.30 - 12.00**        **Meeting with international NGOs**  
  
**- ENEMO**  
*Venue: ECLO building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; room 101*  
*Phone: +381 38 51 31 330*

12.00 - 12.45

**Meeting with local NGOs**

- **Democracy in Action (Kosovo Democratic Institute), KIPRED, Lëvizja Fol (Movement Fol)**

*Venue: ECLO building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; room 101*  
*Phone: +381 38 51 31 330*

13.00 - 14.30

**3. Working Lunch with EULEX HoM De Marnhac**

*Venue: "Gagi" Café-Restaurant*  
*Phone: +377 44 160 665*

15.00 - 15.45

**Meeting with Deputy PM and PDK Vice President Hajredin Kuci**

*Venue: ECLO building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; room 101*  
*Phone: +381 38 51 31 330*

16.00 - 16.45

**Meeting with LDK Party leader Isa Mustafa**

*Venue: ECLO building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; room 101*  
*Phone: +381 38 51 31 330*

17.00 - 17.45

**Meeting with representatives from the current opposition parties:**

- Vice president and AAK Party leader Blerim Shala (including Rugova list),
- Coalition block (AKR, PSD, PD)
- LDD

*Venue: ECLO building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; room 101*  
*Phone: +381 38 51 31 330*

18.00 - 18.30

**Meeting with representatives from newly established parties:**

- Partia Fryma e Re, FER (New Spirit Party)

*Venue: ECLO building, room 101*  
*Phone: +381 38 51 31 330*

18.40 - 19.00

**Meeting with representatives from newly established parties:**

- Vetëvendosje

*Venue: ECLO building, room 101*  
*Phone: +381 38 51 31 330*

19.15 - 20.00

**Meeting with representatives from Kosovo Serbian parties**

- Ms Rada Trajkovic (Serbian Unique List)
- Mr. Randjel Nojkic (Serbian Unique List)
- Mr. Slobodan Petrovic (President of SLS)

*Venue: ECLO building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; room 101*

*Phone: +381 38 51 31 330*

20.15

Transfer to hotel (free evening)

**Sunday, 12 December 2010 - ELECTION DAY**

Observation of Opening, Voting, Vote Count

6.00 - 21.00

**Election Observation** - Division into four groups and departure to polling stations:

- Team 1 (Prishtinë/Pristina including Gracanica/Gracanice)
- Team 2 (Prizren)
- Team 3 (Drenica region and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica - subject to EU security assessment)
- Team 4 (Gjilan/Gnjilane)

21.30 - 22.00

**4. Debriefing from EC election experts**

*Venue: "ORA" Hotel*

*Phone: +381 38 233 709*

22.00 - 23.00

**Preparation of statement and coordination with EUSR Feith and ECLO HoM Daviddi**

*Venue: "ORA" Hotel*

*Phone: +381 38 233 709*

**Monday, 13 December 2010**

8.45

Check-out from hotel and transfer to CEC

**9.00 - 10.00 Meeting with members of the Central Election Commission**

*Venue: Central Election Commission*

*Phone: +381 38 200 23 044; +377 44 164 228;*

**10.30 - 11.15 Press conference**

*Venue: EU Information and Cultural Centre*

*Phone: +381 38 248 643*

**11.20 Departure to airport**



### **The elections in Kosovo are an important step forward in its democratic development**

**Prishtinë/Priština, 13 December 2010.** A generally well organised election day with a good voter turnout is encouraging for the continuous democratic development of Kosovo. This was underlined by the Election Observation Delegation of the European Parliament after monitoring the conduct of the polls. The delegation also acknowledged the successful effort of the Central Election Commission in organising this snap election in a short period of time.

This statement was issued prior to the completion of vote reconciliation and resolution of election complaints. This delegation is awaiting the results of various local and international election observation missions in order to make a full assessment of the election process.

The delegation states with satisfaction that the process has taken place in a peaceful atmosphere. It also notes some technical difficulties and regrets some worrying incidents. Serious allegations of fraud in two municipalities have been brought to the attention of the delegation. The delegation encourages the political parties to follow proper legal procedures. Identified perpetrators should be prosecuted promptly in line with the law in order to curtail the culture of impunity.

The members highlighted the increased participation of the Kosovo Serb community as a sign of further engagement with the country's institutions. However the delegation regrets that the Kosovo Serbs of northern Kosovo refused to use the opportunity to exercise their democratic rights.

These elections are key to Kosovo's democratic transition. The ten-day campaign was intensive, with lively debates in the broadcast media, focusing on economic growth, poverty reduction, the rule of law, and visa liberalisation in the context of Kosovo's European integration.

The delegation wishes to underscore that this creates a new momentum in the process of building a multiethnic Kosovo for the benefit of all its population. It also encourages all relevant actors to seize the opportunity to further contribute to peaceful regional stability and prosperity.

Therefore the delegation hopes for a rapid formation of the assembly and the government as well as the election of the president.

The delegation also notes the rights of the parties to appeal to the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP) after the elections and trusts that in case of complaints, they will seek legal remedy. At the same time the delegation expects all complaints and appeals to be dealt with in full transparency, without delay.

**European Parliament election observation delegation information:** The delegation was led by Doris Pack (EPP, DE) and included Eduard Kukan (EPP, SK), Jutta Steinruck (S&D, DE), Francesco de Angelis (S&D, IT), Jelko Kacin (ALDE, SL), Fiona Hall (ALDE, UK) and Ulrike Lunacek (Greens, AT) who is also the EP's standing rapporteur on Kosovo. The delegation arrived in Kosovo on 10 December. Members of the delegation met representatives of the authorities, political parties, civil society and the resident international community. On election day the delegation visited a number of polling stations in Prishtinë/Priština, Graçanicë/Gračanica, Skenderaj/Srbica, Glogoc/Glogovac, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Parteš/Parteshi and Prizren, and had the opportunity to meet members of the election commissions, candidates and voters. The delegation drew on support from the European Union election expert mission.

# **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

## **ELECTION OBSERVATION DELEGATION**

### **PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN KOSOVO**

**RE-RUN, 7-10 January 2011**

#### **PROGRAMME**

##### **Members**

Ms Ulrike LUNACEK, Austria, VERTS/ALE

Mrs Jutta STEINRUCK, Germany, S&D

##### **Secretariat**

Ewa MAHR, Administrator



## Programme of meetings

### Friday, 7 January 2011

- Afternoon            Arrival and transfer to European Commission Liaison Office (ECLO)
- 17.30 - 19.00**        **Entry briefing with the Head of EC Liaison Office to Kosovo and EC election experts**  
*Venue: ECLO building*
- 19.15**                Transfer to the hotel and check-in  
*Venue: "ORA" Hotel,*  
*Phone: +381 38 233 709*

### Saturday, 8 January 2011

- 10.00 - 11.30**        **Meeting with EUSR Pieter Feith and Oliver Allen, EUSR Coordinator**  
*Venue:*
- 11.30 - 12.15**        **Meeting with international NGOs**  
**- ENEMO**  
*Venue: ECLO building,*
- 12.15 - 13.00**        **Meeting with local NGOs**  
**- Democracy in Action (Kosovo Democratic Institute)**  
*Venue: ECLO building*
- 13.15 - 14.45**        **Lunch (free time)**
- 15.00 - 15.45**        **Meeting with local NGOs**  
**KIPRED**  
*Venue: ECLO building,*
- 16.00 - 16.45**        **Meeting with Deputy PM and PDK Vice President Hajredin Kuci**  
*Venue:*
- 17.00 - 17.45**        **Meeting with acting President of Kosovo Jakup Krasniqi**  
*Venue:*
- 18.00 - 18.45**        **Meeting with Chairperson of the Central Election Commission Valdete Daka**  
*Venue: Central Election Commission*

## **Sunday, 9 January 2011 - ELECTION DAY**

Observation of Opening, Voting, Vote Count

**6.00 - 21.00**      **Election Observation**

**21.30 - 22.30**      **Debriefing with EC election experts**

*Venue:*

## **Monday, 10 January 2011**

**9.00 - 10.30**      **Meeting with EUSR Feith and ECLO HoM Daviddi**

*Venue:*

**11.00 - 11.45**      **Meeting with Chairperson of the Central Election Commission Valdete Daka**

*Venue: Central Election Commission*

**13.00**              Departure to airport



### **More efforts needed to strengthen democracy in Kosovo**

**Prishtinë/Priština, 10 January 2011.** Notwithstanding the well-intentioned efforts of many activists and individuals, during the election of 12 December and 9 January, some serious shortcomings underscored insufficient political will, including at grass root level, to conduct a genuine election in line with international standards and good electoral practice.

This statement is issued prior to the completion of vote reconciliation and resolution of possible complaints for the 9 January repeat elections.

Electoral violations had led to repeat elections in the entire municipalities of Deçan/Deçane, Glogoc/Glogovac and Skenderaj/Srbica and few other polling centres on 9 January. In addition, on 6 January, the Supreme Court of Kosovo ordered to repeat the election in most polling stations in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. As a result, the Central Election Commissions (CEC) will be in a position to announce the election results only after all electoral disputes will have been resolved. Although the vote took place in an overall calm atmosphere, reports of electoral fraud and intimidation were brought to the attention of the Delegation. The Delegation is awaiting the final assessments of ongoing domestic and international election observation efforts in order to draw its conclusions.

The Delegation encourages the Central Election Commission to complete the counting and tabulation of the vote accurately and to announce in a transparent and detailed manner the results as soon as possible. It noted relative improvements in the performance of the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel and initial steps undertaken to curtail the culture of impunity.

The Delegation underlined the importance of this election for Kosovo's ongoing democratic transition, to which the European Parliament is fully committed. It regretted the serious electoral violations in several municipalities and a protracted process of counting and tabulation of the 12 December vote. In order to strengthen public trust in the democratic process, a determined effort must be made to prosecute all identified perpetrators of fraud promptly and transparently, including pending cases from the 2009 local elections.

Kosovo should take immediate steps to improve future electoral process in order to secure the democratic rights of the citizens of Kosovo and strengthen Kosovo's European perspective. The delegation welcomes the fact that political parties acknowledge the need to promptly further the election reform in line with international standards and good electoral practice.

European Parliament election observation delegation information: The European Parliament (EP) delegation deployed for the 9 January repeat election was led by Ulrike Lunacek (Greens, AT) who is also the EP's standing rapporteur, on Kosovo and included Jutta Steinruck (S&D, DE). The delegation arrived in Kosovo on 7 January and met representatives of the authorities, political parties, civil society and the resident international community. On election day, 9 January, the delegation visited a number of polling stations in Skenderaj/Srbica and Glogoc/Glogovac, and had the opportunity to meet members of the election commissions and voters. The delegation drew on support from the European Union election expert mission and the EUSR diplomatic watch.