



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Speech by

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UNMIK Briefing to the Security Council

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Mr President,

We have followed the latest developments in North Kosovo with a certain degree of concern. We fully support the need to fight corruption and the organised crime that is part of the reform agenda of Kosovo. We reiterate the importance of respecting the rule of law in these endeavours. It is important for UNMIK to be able to continue its mission in accordance with its mandate, without constraints and in total independence. We await the results of the UNMIK internal inquiry. I would like to thank the jurisconsult for reminding us of the rules on the immunity of its personnel.

These developments unfortunately reveal a climate of mistrust between the two parties. It is important that the parties refrain from any action or declaration that could give rise to tensions. In this context, we reiterate our call for the Kosovan authorities to remove the 100% tariffs on products from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr President,

The future of Serbia and Kosovo lies in the European Union and requires dialogue. We welcome the meeting between Serbian and Kosovan leaders in Berlin and we call on both parties to seize the opportunity presented by the next meeting in July in Paris to resume dialogue under the aegis of the European Union. We hope that the Serbian and Kosovan leaders will demonstrate the necessary political courage.

It is important that the parties implement all the commitments made previously in the framework of the dialogue, if they are to create a climate conducive to the normalisation of their relations. The conclusion of a global and legally binding agreement on the normalisation of relations is the only way to create a lasting solution to the dispute between the two parties and guarantee stability in the region. Such an agreement is also a condition for Serbia's and Kosovo's membership of the European Union.

Mr President,

We encourage the participation of women, both in the process of normalisation of the relations between Belgrade and Pristina and in the Kosovan political process. It is important to include women in the different stages of the decision-making process and to take account of their needs. Their involvement is essential for

achieving reconciliation and a just and lasting peace. We welcome the work of UNMIK and UN Women in this respect.

Mr President,

Kosovo has made significant progress since 1999 thanks to the presence of the international community. The United Nations and UNMIK in particular have played a vital role in this area. The European Union, which Serbia and Kosovo aspire to join, has also made a major contribution through the EULEX Kosovo rule of law mission. We believe it is important for the international community to continue to invest in Kosovo and help to create the conditions for a normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo.

Thank you.