



ASSEMBLY OF
KOSOVA
September, 2007

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES, LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND MEDIA

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The Parliamentary Committee on Public Services, Local Administration & Media is one of the 11 functional committees of the Assembly of Kosovo which consists of 14 members representing different political parties of the Assembly. Issues related to public services, local administration and media fall under the jurisdiction of this committee.

The primary responsibility of the Committee is to consider determination and coordination of policies for ensuring public services for all citizens, regardless of their ethnicity, gender and age which are based on the principles of professionalism and accountability. The Committee will also be engaged in drafting projects for capacity



development for civil staff, proposals of measures for administration of payments system and list of salaries for civil servants, reviewing international standards and information technology tools that should be used in the PISG.

The Parliamentary Committee on Public Services, Local Administration & Media is responsible for reviewing and amend-

ing laws related to the areas of jurisdiction as well as monitoring the implementation of laws by executive institutions. Executive competencies for these issues falling under the Committee's jurisdiction are covered by the Ministry of Public Administration & Ministry of Local Administration which is the primary sponsor of draft laws.

WORK PLAN 2007

On January 25, 2007, the Committee approved its annual work plan, which determines the work for 2007. In this year's agenda, the Committee has foreseen the process of reviewing and amending draft laws under its jurisdiction, monitoring the implementation of laws, visiting different institutions as well as organizing public hearings. A work plan, primarily based on the legislative strategy of the Government, increased the need for cooperation between committee support staff and legal offices, respective ministries, and the legal office of the Prime Minister. The Committee could not proceed with the activities completely in compliance with the annual plan because government did not respect time lines for submitting draft laws as foreseen by the legislative strategy.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Rules of Procedures of the Assembly foresee that the Committees shall meet at least twice monthly. Between January and July, Committee has fulfilled its obligations deriving from Rules of Procedure and met 16 times. During these meetings, committee members have been mainly focused on the process of reviewing and amending draft laws, hearing government officials who were invited to report to the Committee and also consultations with local and international experts. Committee meetings were open to the public and were followed by monitors from different local and international organizations and sometimes by media representatives.

REVIEW OF DRAFT LAWS

The draft laws submitted in the Assembly of Kosovo that cover issues related to public services, local administration and media are reviewed and amended by this Committee. During the first half of 2007 Committee reviewed four laws. Two of these laws are still in procedure. Since Janu-

ary, Committee reviewed the following laws: draft law on changes and amending of the Law on Civil Register 2004/46, draft law on Civil Status and draft law on Private Property Owners. Recently, the Committee has been focused on the last two draft laws which are still on procedure. With the aim

of improving the quality of laws Committee organized several consultative meetings with government officials and local and regional experts. Some of the draft laws have passed the second reading while the Committee continues to work on the process of amending the remaining laws.

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FIELD VISITS

Despite reviewing and amending draft laws, an important role of the Committee is its oversight function of the executive branch. The Committee visited several executive institutions to gather information about implementation of laws, gaps in the legal infrastructure as well as other practical problems the executive branch is facing. The Committee has been focused on visiting institutions in regional centers and municipal. Since January, the Committee organized two field visits in the Municipality of Novoberdo and pilot Municipality of Mamusha.

Committee members were informed about the situation in these institutions, asked questions related to the implementation of laws reviewed and amended by committee and committed to address their concerns in the Assembly.

COMMITTEE FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Based on the annual work plan, the Committee will be focused on reviewing and amending the remaining draft laws submitted to the Committee, organize visits to several institutions to monitor the implementation of laws and will continue its oversight activities by reviewing reports from ministries and summoning ministers to report to the Committee. In case an agreement will be signed with regard to the political status of Kosovo, the Committee will be specifically focused on the draft laws foreseen to be approved by Ahtisari's Status Plan. The Committee will cooperate with local and international organizations, to increase visibility towards Kosovar citizens and continue its work on monitoring the activities of the executive branch.

PUBLIC HEARINGS



With the aim of reviewing draft laws more efficiently and improve the quality of laws, parliamentary committees organize public hearings. These hearings serve to gather opinions and suggestions of experts from related fields, representatives of interest groups, non government organizations, different associations and especially those categories that are directly affected by the law.

This enables committee members to have a clear view on issues which will be regulated by the law and help them take the

right decisions. In addition to this work, committees also organize informative hearings in cases when there are complaints on the implementation of the law or request for amendments to the existing laws; therefore, government officials are invited to report and answer questions for committee members.

Between January and July 2007, committee organized two public hearings. The first public hearing has been organized due to the remarks and criticism of Association of Independent Electronic Media in Kosovo (AMPEK) re-

garding the implementation of the Law on Independent Media Commission.

The second public hearing has been organized on the request of Association of Blind Persons for amending the law on Radio Television of Kosova. The Committee invited individual experts and representatives of different local organizations and institution to express and clarify their concerns and also provide clear recommendations to committee members on how to proceed further.

In an effort to simplify the process of organizing public hearing, recently the Committee support staff in cooperation with NDI prepared a database containing contact information's from experts and organizations related to the issues under Committee jurisdiction. The Committee staff used the database while preparing the last public hearing and considered it very helpful.

The Committee will continue to organize public hearing whenever considers it necessary with the aim of consulting experts and general public and therefore improve the quality of laws.

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS

Within its responsibility, every parliamentary committee has authority to monitor the implementation of laws by respective ministries. The aim of this monitoring is to oversee implementation of laws and improve the general situation in the area covered by the law. The Committee has been very active in exercising its oversight function.

The Committee monitors implementation of every law for which it serves as the functional oversight committee. This year, the Committee has been very active

on monitoring the implementation of laws, through field visits and informative hearing with government officials. Considering that one of the main functions of Committees is to conduct oversight on the implementation of laws by the respective ministries, the Committee was focused mainly on verifying the issuance and compliance of subsidiary legislation of Ministries based on the laws.

Assisted by NDI, the Committee conducted a research of compliance of subsidiary legis-

lation with basic laws for the following laws: Law for Access on Official Documents, Law on Use of Languages, Law on Media Independent Commission and Law on Radio Television of Kosova. From several meetings and field visits, the Committee gathered important information about the problems and obstacles on implementation of laws and will soon draft a report with recommendations for Ministries.