

# Republika e Kosovës

Republika Kosovo - Republic of Kosovo Kuvendi - Skupština - Assembly

### TRANSKRIPT

I MBLEDHJES SË VEÇANTË TË KUVENDIT TË REPUBLIKËS SË KOSOVËS, E MBAJTUR MË 6 NËNTOR 2015

POSEBNE SEDNICE SKUPŠTINE REPUBLIKE KOSOVA, ODRŽANE 6. NOVEMBRA 2015. GODINE

> NËNTOR - NOVEMBAR 2015

### Rendi i ditës

1. Adresimi i komisionarit të UE-së për Politikat Evropiane të Fqinjësisë dhe Negociatave për Zgjerim, z. Johanes Hahn, deputetëve të Kuvendit të Republikës së Kosovës

## Dnevni red

2. Obraćanje Komesara EU za susedsku politiku i pregovore o proširenju, g-dina Johanes Hahn, poslanicima Skupštine Republike Kosova

### Mbledhjen e drejtoi kryetari i Kuvendit, z. Kadri Veseli.

KRYETARI: Të nderuar deputetë të Kuvendit të Republikës së Kosovës,

I nderuar komisionar i Bashkimit Evropian për Politika Evropiane të Fqinjësisë dhe Negociatave për Zgjerim, zoti Johannes Hahn,

E nderuar presidente e Republikës së Kosovës, zonja Ahtifete Jahjaga,

Të nderuar diplomatë në Republikën e Kosovës,

I nderuar kryeministër i Republikës së Kosovës, zoti Isa Mustafa,

Të nderuar zëvendëskryeministra dhe ministra të Kabinetit qeveritar,

Të nderuar përfaqësues të institucioneve ndërkombëtare,

Të nderuara zonja dhe zotërinj të pranishëm,

Mirë se keni ardhur në seancën e veçantë të Kuvendit të Republikës së Kosovës, të thirrur me rastin e vizitës së komisionarit të Bashkimit Evropian për Politika Evropiane të Fqinjësisë dhe Negociatave për Zgjerim, zotit Johannes Hahn.

I nderuar zoti Johannes Hahn, mirë se keni ardhur në Kuvendin e Republikës së Kosovës!

Ne përfaqësuesit e popullit të Kosovës jemi të nderuar që sot ju kemi në mesin tonë.

Prania juaj në Kuvendin e Republikës së Kosovës është dëshmi e përkushtimit të Bashkimit Evropian për ta përkrahur Kosovën në proceset e integrimit.

Të hënën e kaluar, Kuvendi i Kosovës e ratifikoi Marrëveshjen e Stabilizim-Asocimit me Bashkimin Evropian, marrëveshja e parë kontraktuale e vendit tonë, shtetit tonë - Republikës së Kosovës me Bashkimin Evropian.

Tashmë ne e kemi të qartësuar rrugën e integrimit. Ajo që na duhet është ecja më e shpejtë në të dy drejtimet.

Ne duhet të ecim më shpejt në rrugën evropiane, e kjo varet shumë nga vetë puna jonë. Ne i kemi të qarta obligimet tona. Por, edhe Bashkimi Evropian duhet të ecën më shpejt në raport me Kosovën dhe qytetarët e saj në rrugën e vet të integrimit. Të ketë një qasje të re dhe më dinamike. Ne besojmë se edhe vizita juaj sot dhe fjalimi juaj i tanishëm në Kuvendin e Republikës së Kosovës janë dëshmi të kësaj qasjeje të re të Bashkimit Evropian ndaj shtetit tonë Republikës së Kosovës.

I nderuari zoti Hahn, fjala është për ju. Faleminderit!

KOMISIONARI I BE-së, JOHANNES HAHN: Madam President,

Mr Speaker, Prime Minister,

Members of Government,

Honourable Members of the Parliament,

Thank you very much for your invitation to be here with you today. I would like to talk to you about the Stabilisation and Association Agreement that the European Union signed with Kosovo on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October and that this Assembly ratified last Monday.

Kosovo can be justly proud of this important achievement, which involved a lot of hard work by dedicated people on both sides.

I believe the Agreement is of critical importance for the future of Kosovo. But, like all legislation that this House passes, a lot depends on how it will be implemented. The Agreement will be what Kosovo will make out of it.

Mr Speaker, allow me to explain what the Stabilisation and Association Agreement is all about. It's a contract between the European Union and Kosovo. First and foremost this is what it is. It gives us an opportunity to have improved relationship and it is by the way not only about rights and privileges, but also about duties and obligations. Like all contracts, the Agreement describes what both parties have agreed and have to do together. So, what have the European Union and Kosovo agreed to do?

The European Union and Kosovo have agreed to establish an association. The aims of this association are political and economic, and also touch upon regional cooperation.

Politically, the Agreement aims to support Kosovo's efforts to strengthen democracy and the rule of law, and to contribute to Kosovo's political and institutional stability. The Agreement provides for a framework for political dialogue and aims to support Kosovo's efforts to develop its international cooperation. It provides for a solid framework for cooperation in the fight against organised crime and corruption. It should consolidate the rule of law and the administration of justice.

The Agreement also presents a framework for economic development and job creation. The Agreement will upgrade and expand trade relations between the EU and Kosovo by the gradual development of a free trade area. This should encourage the development of opportunities to do business, both for EU companies in Kosovo and for Kosovo companies in the EU. It will help Kosovo implement the necessary economic reforms, underpinned by the rule of law. This should increase the confidence of foreign and domestic investors in Kosovo by ensuring a more predictable business environment. All this should create an economic perspective for your people, especially the young ones and should lead to job creation. It's also about turning this brain drain which you are facing into a brain circulation. Also this could be afforded and achieved by this agreement.

The Agreement should help establish a stable legal framework and the gradual approximation with EU laws and standards. More specifically, the Agreement promotes the free movement of goods, services and capital. It envisages higher standards of consumer protection in Kosovo that should lead to increased safety for Kosovo consumers. It should open up business to more competition, potentially contributing to lower prices and a bigger selection of goods and services for Kosovo citizens to choose from. So it is about very tangible, very visible results and benefits for Kosovo citizens.

The Agreement should also stimulate Kosovo's progress in the area of transport and energy infrastructure as it foresees the gradual integration into Europe's energy markets and the development of quality infrastructure.

Allow me in this regard to refer to the importance we attach to the Connectivity Agenda, which is close to my heart. Investment in connectivity will not only result in improved infrastructure, but will also create again jobs. One very concrete example is the planned rehabilitation of Kosovo Rail Route Project number 10, which is part of the Western Balkans core railway network and part of a wider European Union agenda to promote transport connectivity in the region.

This brings me to regional cooperation. The Agreement should also strengthen regional cooperation. Under the terms of the Agreement, Kosovo commits itself to the visible and sustainable improvement in relations with Serbia. This is an essential principle of our Agreement. The continuation and positive and productive contribution of the EU-facilitated dialogue with Serbia is therefore a legal obligation. Kosovo will need to implement the agreements it has reached with Serbia, and continue to work towards further agreements. As we have seen recently, this sometimes involves taking difficult decisions and requires the courage to compromise and defend these compromises.

Over the last four years Kosovo has demonstrated that it is up to this challenge and that its standards and that it has understood that the dialogue is in the interests of Kosovo and its citizens. With our Agreement, Kosovo's dialogue with Serbia has become an integral part of Kosovo's progress towards Europe. I appeal to all in Kosovo to consider the dialogue not as an obstacle but as an opportunity to advance Kosovo's European agenda and promote its regional integration. Kosovo has much if not everything to gain from the dialogue. And it has an awful lot to loose without the dialogue.

The Agreement also includes provisions that commit Kosovo to high international standards in terms of respect for democratic principles. I don't need to tell you that this is of particular relevance to the challenges Kosovo is facing at the moment. It means that there should be respect for the institutions set up to ensure democratic government and that there should be respect for the rules and procedures that allow these institutions to do their work. It also means there should be no obstruction to free and transparent political discourse. Obstruction and violence have no place in a democratic system.

Those who obstruct the free exchange of views have lost the argument before the debate has even started.

Respect for democratic principles means that a democratically elected government can submit its proposals to you, the elected representatives of the people. It means that the elected representatives have the opportunity to debate these proposals openly and subject them to democratic scrutiny, without obstruction, in the place that has been assigned for this very purpose, it's this House, it's the parliament. It means that the elected representatives of the people can freely express their views and vote on these proposals. And it means that elected representatives can defend their assessment and decisions to those who gave them their mandate, the Kosovo citizens.

Respect for democratic principles also means that this Assembly can and must play its full part in ensuring checks and balances over the actions of state institutions, including the government - but through democratic means.

Honorable members,

Let me also take this opportunity to tell this House what the Stabilisation and Association Agreement will not do. It will not mean more financial assistance for Kosovo. Kosovo's allocation under our Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance will not increase. However, the Pre-accession funding and budget will be mobilised to help Kosovo implement the Agreement and make the best use of it. And not to be misunderstood, we are talking here about an amount of six hundred fifty million euro till 2020 which will be provided by the EU and rest assured that the EU will continue to maintain this high levels of funding to assist you in modernising your administration, improving connectivity and enhancing education and employment prospects.

The Agreement also does not relate to visas. I know that visa free travel is a top political if not that top political priority for Kosovo, but our Agreement does not touch on this. We are however currently assessing Kosovo's progress on visas, and you will recall that my colleague the commissioner in charge for that Dimitris Avramopoulos confirmed earlier that Kosovo was, I quote him, 'walking the last mile' towards visa free status.

Our primarily assessment is that Kosovo has made substantial progress on visas, and this includes the border demarcation agreement with Montenegro. I am hopeful that remaining challenges can be addressed quickly and effectively. We will assess this progress fairly and should issue our findings before the end of this year.

Let me conclude by confirming that the Stabilisation and Association Agreement is a key step on Kosovo's road to Europe. The next challenge is its implementation. Implementation concerns all in Kosovo; not only the government, this Assembly and Kosovo's public administration, but also the Kosovo business community, civil society and Kosovo society at large. It is a joint effort. The Agreement will need time to kick in. It is not a magic cure that will show results immediately. It needs to be implemented in the manner and at the pace that we agreed. We will monitor this very carefully.

Finally, the Agreement cannot fix Kosovo's internal political problems; these are to be solved by you, Kosovo's democratically elected politicians, within the framework of your rules and procedures. Of course we will continue to stand ready and support Kosovo in its efforts to get out of its current difficulties, but we cannot take the necessary decisions or otherwise force a solution.

#### Mr Speaker, Madam President,

Allow me to conclude by thanking you once again for this opportunity, and by congratulating Prime Minister Mustafa, his government, yourselves Honourable Members, and the people of Kosovo on the tremendous achievement that is our Stabilisation and Association Agreement. Together with you I look forward to its entry into force next week and be reassured by the strong support and attention the EU is giving to your wonderful country.

Thank you very much!

KRYETARI: Të nderuar deputetë, E nderuar Presidente e Republikës, I nderuar Kryeministër, Me kaq e përfundojmë seancën solemne. Faleminderit!

> E përgatiti: Njësia për Transkriptim dhe Lekturë