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## Kosovo News Update

RW

Robert Wexler



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Sent Items

I thought you might be interested in the latest developments regarding the Republic of Kosovo.

This material is distributed by Ballard Partners on behalf of the Republic of Kosovo. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

### **Kosovo Maintains Support from Balkans Neighbors**

- Bulgarian PM Borissov met with Kosovo President Thaci to discuss the construction of corridors between their countries in transportation, energy, and in digital connectivity.
- PM Borissov said that increasing their connectivity and allowing visa liberalization will help increase the tourism and business exchange between the two countries, which will further economic cooperation in the region.
- PM Borissov pushes for Kosovo's integration into the EU.
- Slovenian FM Erjavec and Kosovo's FM Pacolli spoke about increasing their bilateral cooperation and Kosovo's efforts to join the EU and NATO.
- Slovenia and Croatia are both in full support of Kosovo joining Interpol and UNESCO.
- Croatian FM Buric met with Kosovo's FM Pacolli to discuss bilateral relations and increasing cooperation, especially in regard to the economy.
- Croatia continues to support Kosovo in its efforts to join the EU, and Kosovo's implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement and the European Reform Agenda.

<http://www.mvep.hr/en/info-servis/press-releases/fin-pejcinovic-buric-pays-official-visit-to-kosovo.31481.html>

<https://english.sta.si/2492550/erjavce-boosting-economic-cooperation-in-kosovo>

<http://www.bta.bg/en/c/DF/id/1755785>

### **Kosovo IPO Launches Online Trademark & Patent Database**

-The Kosovo Industrial Property Office published an online trademark and patent database, which will allow users to search various patent and trademark applications and registrations.

<https://www.petosevic.com/resources/news/2018/03/3885>

### **Kosovo & Serbia Work Together to Move Forward**

-Kosovo's President Thaci met with Serbian President Vucic, where they discussed their border issues, political differences, and establishing a regional economic zone.

[https://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics.php?yyyy=2018&mm=03&dd=02&nav\\_id=103614](https://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics.php?yyyy=2018&mm=03&dd=02&nav_id=103614)

### **Kosovo is Aiming to Become a Member of Interpol and UNESCO**

-Kosovo is making productive steps in becoming a member of Interpol and UNESCO, and will be applying for both this year.

-Kosovo's FM Pacolli, stated, "full participation in international political forums will strengthen Kosovo as a state and enable it to assume all the functions of a modern state".

<http://www.balkan.eu.com/kosovo-is-aiming-to-become-member-of-interpol-and-unesco/>

### **US Supports Kosovo Army**

-US Assistant Secretary of State Wess Mitchell, reaffirmed the US' support for establishing a Kosovo Army, stating, "Nobody can place a veto on Kosovo's right to develop its armed forces."

-US Assistant Secretary of State Mitchell, said that the US will help assist in creating resolutions for the remaining issues in the area, and acknowledged the progress Kosovo has made since 2008.

<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/mitchell-visits-belgrade-reaffirms-support-for-kosovo-army-03-14-2018>

<https://www.rtklive.com/en/news-single.php?ID=11046>

<https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2018/03/16/mitchell-wb-kosovo-form-army-macedonia-greece-reach-agreement/>

### **Kosovo Lawmakers Pass Border Demarcation Deal with Montenegro**

-Kosovo passed a border deal with Montenegro, allowing Kosovo to continue talks with the EU about enjoying visa-free travel to European countries.

-The EU has hailed the passage of the border demarcation as "a real achievement".

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-22/kosovo-approves-border-deal-in-bid-to-gain-eu-visa-free-regime>

<http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2018/03/21/428753/gazeta-express-kosovo-parliament-ratifies-border-deal-with-montenegro.html>

<https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2018/03/22/apostolova-ratification-demarcation-important-milestone-kosovo/>

### **Kosovo Embarks on Renewables Path**

-Kosovo has prioritized alternative and renewable energy, and it is open to developments in wind and solar power.

-Kosovo's PM has urged financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the EBRD, to provide investments in new energy technology.

<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2018/03/22/kosovo-embarks-on-path-to-renewables/>

All the best,

The Honorable Robert Wexler