

Reply all | Delete Junk | ...

Kosovo News Update

RW Robert Wexler

Fri 7/13/2018 2:08 PM

Reply all |

Bcc: ryan.uyehara@mail.house.gov; carly.frame@mail.house.gov; michaila.lindow@mail.house.gov; sid.ravishankar@mail.house.gov; mark.erste@mail.house.gov; sarah.trister@mail.house.gov; molly.claire.cole@mail.house.gov; brandon.white@mail.house.gov; katherineanne.russo@mail.house.gov; tiffany.howard2@mail.house.gov; jason.steinbaum@mail.house.gov; valeria.carranza@mail.house.gov; daniel.bleiberg@mail.house.gov; guido.weiss@mail.house.gov; jacob.morabito@mail.house.gov; gabrielle.gould@mail.house.gov; matt.mcmurray2@mail.house.gov; sebastian.deluca@mail.house.gov; corey.jacobson@mail.house.gov; sarah.miller@mail.house.gov; thomas.rice@mail.house.gov; josh.wentzel@mail.house.gov; deidra.reid@mail.house.gov; laura.detter@mail.house.gov; oren.adaki@mail.house.gov; paul.behrends@mail.house.gov; corey.schrodt@mail.house.gov; antonella.davalos@mail.house.gov; blair.rotert@mail.house.gov; jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; erik.kinney@mail.house.gov; david.dorfman@mail.house.gov; sadaf.khan@mail.house.gov; piero.tozzi@mail.house.gov; lina.dakheel@mail.house.gov; erica.riordan@mail.house.gov; clay.boggs@mail.house.gov; molly.burke@mail.house.gov; taylor.andrae@mail.house.gov; james.walsh@mail.house.gov; sara.matar@mail.house.gov; amber_bland@barrasso.senate.gov; jake_gutman@booker.senate.gov; algene_sajery@foreign.senate.gov; alexandra_davis@coons.senate.gov; joe_curtsinger@corker.senate.gov; brian_canfield@flake.senate.gov; igor_khrestin@gardner.senate.gov; trent_bishop@gardner.senate.gov; ryan_evans@isakson.senate.gov; carol_foster@ronjohnson.senate.gov; andrew_kalaris@kaine.senate.gov; mark_appleton@markey.senate.gov; sarah_arkin@menendez.senate.gov; louie_reckford@merkley.senate.gov; jim_webb@paul.senate.gov; tyler_brace@portman.senate.gov; chris_socha@risch.senate.gov; robert_zarate@rubio.senate.gov; naz_durakoglu@shaheen.senate.gov; matthew_padilla@tomudall.senate.gov; brad_bowman@young.senate.gov; david_seyferth@murphy.senate.gov

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.

U.S. Continues Support for Kosovo

- The American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo hosted the Consul General of the Republic of Kosovo in New York to discuss coordinating institutional efforts on promoting investment opportunities in Kosovo and enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries.
- VentureUP at The University of Pristina - a partnership with USAID and the Government of Kosovo - is an innovation and entrepreneurship center that offers options and ideas for new enterprises and gives students the chance to build their own entrepreneurial future.
- The VentureUP team has worked with over 700 of the university's students, with a whopping 80% of attendees being women, and has offered 185 Master's Degree scholarships, more than 100 professional certificate scholarships, and four university partnerships.

<http://www.amchamksv.org/amcham-and-consulate-general-of-kosovo-in-new-york-agree-to-further-cooperate-promoting-activities/>

<https://www.usaid.gov/results-data/success-stories/entrepreneurship-and-innovation-heating-kosovo>

Kosovo Increases Ties with European Neighbors

- Kosovo's President Thaci, said that Kosovo institutions have benefited from the cooperation with EULEX, and thanks to them, Kosovo has raised local capacities to be completely responsible for its own rule of law.

 Reply all |  Delete Junk |  ...

prosecutions, and trials to Kosovo's judges, prosecutors, and local authorities.

- Kosovo is aiming to become a member of NATO and the UN. Kosovo PM Haradinaj stated that Kosovo Security Forces are ready to assume its responsibilities as an army in compliance with NATO standards.
- Kosovo is hoping to become a member of INTERPOL this fall, as it has now gained the support of a majority of member countries. It will contribute to the fight against organized crime, violent extremism, and other criminal phenomena.
- As a member of INTERPOL, it would have access to INTERPOL data and be able to exchange valuable information in the global fight against international organized crime.
- VP of the European Commission Mogherini hosted a meeting with Serbia's President Vucic and Kosovo's President Thaci. The parties discussed century old problems and agreed that all problems should be solved peacefully.
- Kosovo's President Thaci is pushing for better relations with Serbia, stating, "We cannot remain the victims of the bitter past, but we should look forward... this is the right momentum... today we have discussed concrete issues, we have discussed modalities on how to go towards the final phase of the dialogue by finding a solution... we want to build normal relations."
- Kosovo's President Thaci, stated, "I am convinced that the time has come now, after 20 years of negotiations with Serbia, to sign a historic agreement between Kosovo and Serbia that will end a tragic era that lasted over a century."
- Kosovo and Macedonia will sign 15 agreements in the fields of justice, security, health, and the economy.
- Bulgarian PM Borissov met with Kosovo's PM Haradinaj to discuss the development of their countries, transportation projects which will connect the Adriatic with the Black Sea, the prevention of Islamic radicalization, connecting the region with Europe, and Kosovo's integration into the EU.
- Kosovo's PM Haradinaj thanked Bulgarian PM Borissov for encouraging the EU's integration of western Balkans' countries.
- The Parliament of Kosovo has ratified a draft resolution for the creation of joint customs between Kosovo and Albania, which will help businesses on both sides of the border and boost trade, benefiting both economies.
- The Parliament of Kosovo ratified other agreements with Albania, simplifying border procedures and scrapping roaming charges.
- The demarcation agreement between Kosovo and Montenegro went into effect in early June.
- Austrian Speaker of Parliament Sobotka, stated "Austria supports Kosovo in its EU integration path. Austria supports Kosovo also on visa liberalization process and we are ready to continue this support on waving visas, if assessed that all criteria have been fulfilled."
- Kosovo's FM Pacolli met with Switzerland's Federal Councilor Ignazio Cassis, where the two discussed their bilateral relations over the past decade and highlighted their good relations.

<http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2018/06/01/431053/gazeta-express-kosovo-and-macedonia-expected-to-sign-15-agreements.html>

<https://prishtinainsight.com/kosovo-president-forwards-letter-marking-end-eulex-mandate/>

<https://www.gazetaexpress.com/en/news/eulex-remains-in-kosovo-only-with-advisory-rolc-174190/>

<http://balkan.eu.com/bulgarian-pm-borissov-holds-talks-with-pms-of-albania-kosovo/>

<https://www.novinite.com/articles/190486/Boyko-Borisov-Talked-with-the-Prime-Minister-of-Kosovo>

<http://balkan.eu.com/parliament-in-kosovo-ratifies-the-resolution-joint-customs-with-albania/>

<https://europeanwestbalkans.com/2018/06/06/kosovo-montenegro-demarcation-agreement-came-effect/>

<https://www.gazetaexpress.com/en/news/austria-supports-visa-liberalisation-for-kosovo-174209/>

<http://www.startribune.com/european-union-scales-down-rule-of-law-mission-in-kosovo/484940191/>

<http://balkan.eu.com/kosovo-is-aiming-to-become-part-of-nato-and-un/>

<http://www.balkan.eu.com/kosovo-is-looking-to-become-a-member-of-interpol/>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/kosovo-thaci-wants-historic-deal-with-serbia/29306704.html>

<https://www.gazetaexpress.com/en/news/the-time-has-to-reach-a-historic-agreement-with-serbia-president-thaci-174242/>

<http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2018/06/24/431763/gazeta-express-mogherini-hosted-a-meeting-with-presidents-of-kosovo-and-of-serbia.html>

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/cambodia/en/home/news/news.html/content/eda/en/meta/news/2018/6/22/71251>

Kosovo is on the Path to Economic Recovery

- The World Bank projects Kosovo's economy will expand by 4.8% in 2018, and by 4.8% in 2019.

Reply all | Delete | Junk | ...

- The IMF recently conducted a report on Kosovo, stating that its economic performance remains solid, with an expected 4% growth in 2018, inflation subdued, the external current account deficit narrowed, the banking sector remaining well capitalized, liquid and profitable, and thus, it has a positive short-term outlook.
- Although the IMF has concerns about the long-term outlook, it has made several recommendations which will help safeguard a positive economic future for Kosovo, including: accelerated structural reforms to private sector development to achieve stronger and sustainable growth, and to advance the implementation of education, governance, infrastructure, health, labor market and tax administration reforms.
- Kosovo's GDP grew by 3.5% year-on-year during the first quarter of 2018, totaling €1.3 billion.
- Exports of goods and services increased by 16.2% year-on-year during the first quarter of 2018.
- The largest increase in Q1 was registered in the financial and insurance activity sector (10.8%), followed by construction (9.9%), transport and storage (6%) and wholesale/retail (5.2%).
- The IFC is giving Kosovo a €1 million loan to boost access to finance for micro & small businesses and small farmers & agri-business in rural and semi-urban areas, which will help improve and increase lending to entrepreneurs and farmers, which is critical for developing the private sector and creating jobs.
- Kosovo's unemployment rate dropped to 26.5% in Q1 2018, from 30.6% in Q4 2017.

<https://www.ebrd.com/cs/Satellite?c=Content&cid=1395237167718&d=Mobile&pagename=EBRD%2FContent%2FContentLayout>

<http://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2018/06/05/pr18219-imf-staff-concludes-visit-to-kosovo>

<https://seeneews.com/news/world-bank-affirms-kosovos-2018-2019-growth-fcasts-lifts-2020-projection-615386>

<https://emerging-europe.com/in-brief/microfinance-in-kosovos-gets-ifc-support/>

<https://seeneews.com/news/kosovos-unemployment-drops-to-265-in-q1-616788>

<https://seeneews.com/news/kosovos-gdp-grows-by-35-yy-in-q1-618086>

<http://www.inteljinews.com/kosovo-posts-3-5-gdp-growth-in-q1-144325/?source=kosovo>

All the best,

The Honorable Robert Wexler