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Subject: Latest Developments Regarding the Republic of Kosovo
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I thought you might be interested in the latest developments regarding the Republic of Kosovo.

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Kosovo Works to Improve Bilateral Relations

- Kosovo's President Thaci says that Kosovo is ready to resume dialogue with Serbia, with the assistance of the U.S. and the E.U. to mediate.
- Kosovar President Thaci said talks about normalizing relations between Pristina and Belgrade should continue as soon as possible, without complaining about each other or talking about the past.
- President Thaci asked the E.U. to allow membership for all Western Balkans' countries.
- The E.U. and Kosovo signed an arrangement to implement a Joint Action Plan on counterterrorism for the Western Balkans region.
- At the U.N. Security Council briefing on the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the U.K. Political Coordinator applauded Kosovo's commitment to advocating for human rights, creating equal access for minorities, increasing transparency, strengthening the country's rule of law, standardizing judicial practices, prosecuting war crimes, helping displaced persons, and adopting child protection legislation.
- The U.K. Political Coordinator also applauded the calm and well administered recent elections, adding that they were carried out with professionalism and transparency. He noted that Kosovo still has many areas that need improvement but is proud of the progress it's made.

<https://www.gazetaexpress.com/kosovo-politicians-ready-for-dialogue-with-serbia-says-thaci/>
<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/eu-kosovo-sign-deal-on-fight-against-terrorism/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/commitment-to-peace-in-kosovo-for-future-generations>
<https://www.rferl.org/a/kosovo-s-thaci-insists-on-resuming-dialogue-with-serbia-without-conditions-/30266706.html>

U.S. & Kosovo Continue Building Relations

- U.S. Special Representative for the Western Balkans, Matthew Palmer, said that a Kosovo-Serbia resolution is top priority for the U.S.
- Palmer recently visited Kosovo to discuss the recent election, rule of law, new political developments, and the potential for new Kosovo-Serbia discussions.
- The U.S. has given Kosovo \$5 million to clear cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war on over 1,060 acres of hazardous land.

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-commits-5-million-to-conventional-weapons-destruction-assistance-in-kosovo/>

https://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics.php?yyyy=2019&mm=10&dd=24&nav_id=107423
<https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2019/11/01/palmer-visits-kosovo-meets-with-thaci-and-party-representatives/>

Kosovo Looks Toward Renewable Energy

- The IFC is assisting Kosovo on the development of its first solar power plant, a proposed 50 MW plant.
 - The EBRD is assisting the country in its first renewables auction, with Kosovo targeting 400MW of renewable capacity by 2025.
 - Kosovo's first wind project was completed in 2018, a 32.4MW project, while another 105MW wind project is currently in the works to be completed by 2021.
- <https://balkanenergynews.com/ifc-to-help-kosovo-design-tender-its-first-solar-pvp-project/>
<https://www.windpowermonthly.com/article/1663679/kosovo-looks-renewables-revolution>
<https://www.py-magazine.com/2019/10/30/kosovo-preps-50-mw-solar-tender/>

Kosovo's Economy is on The Rise

- Q3 2019 showed a 6.29% increase in newly registered companies, when compared to the same quarter in 2018, registering 2,379 new businesses.
 - The International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) are loaning \$9.9 million to microfinance institutions in Kosovo to provide financing for small agribusinesses.
 - FDI into Kosovo totaled 53.2€ million in August, a significant increase from the 43.7€ million FDI inflow in August 2018.
 - The EBRD projects that Kosovo's economy will grow by 4.0% this year.
 - In 2018, the country saw 3.8% growth in GDP, while in the first 6-months of 2019 it had 4.2% growth compared to the same period in 2018.
 - Kosovo's banking sector had an increase in net profit from January-September of this year, up to 65.7 € million from 60.7€ million from the same period last year.
- <https://seenews.com/news/number-of-newly-registered-companies-in-kosovo-rises-63-yy-in-q3-674502>
<https://seenews.com/news/net-fdi-inflow-to-kosovo-rises-yy-in-aug-675082>
<https://seenews.com/news/ebd-affirms-kosovos-2019-economic-growth-projection-at-4-675404>
<https://seenews.com/news/kosovo-banks-jan-sept-net-profit-rises-676515>
<https://seenews.com/news/ifc-gafsp-lending-9-mln-euro-to-support-small-agribusinesses-in-kosovo-677619>

Sincerely,

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