

Project Management Report from Kosovo



*By **Kushtrim Mehmetaj**
International Correspondent for PM World Journal
Prishtina, Kosovo*

Kosovo signs Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with European Commission

The signature of the SAA is the most important event after 2008 when Republic of Kosovo declared independence. Kosovo Parliament has already ratified the SAA. The EU Office in Kosovo / EU Special Representative and Embassies / Offices of EU Member States in Kosovo congratulated today the people of Kosovo on the signature of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the European Union, and issued the following statement:



"The Stabilisation and Association Agreement is the first contractual relationship between Kosovo and the European Union. It represents an important milestone for Kosovo's European future. Once ratified by the European Parliament and the Kosovo Assembly, the SAA will deepen the political, economic and trade ties between the EU and Kosovo. It will, from then on, form the main framework for the relations between the EU and Kosovo, further preparing Kosovo on its European path.

The agreement will facilitate the gradual alignment of Kosovo's legislation with the whole body of EU law and standards, creating new impetus for Kosovo's economy. It will introduce higher standards for consumer protection, leading to an increased safety for Kosovo's consumers. The SAA will also lead to a more predictable business environment, with better safety for both domestic and foreign investors,



which is expected to create more jobs for the Kosovo people. All political parties in Kosovo have regularly expressed their commitment to the European path of Kosovo and its approximation with the EU values and the rule of law. The respect for the rule of law and the rule of law institutions however cannot be selective and conditioned by one's subjective assessment and application of it. There are many democratic ways and tools for the opposition to make their voices heard and using violence is not one of them”.

US State Secretary Mr. John Kerry visits Kosovo



US State Secretary John Kerry visited Kosovo on Dec 2, 2015 as part of the EU and Balkan tour (France, Belgium, Serbia, Kosovo and Greece). This is the first highest-ranking visit from the US in Kosovo. State Secretary met with Kosovo Prime Minister Mustafa with whom he discussed rule of law, economic development and regional

security issues. Kerry has also mentioned the US support and friendship to Kosovo. Kerry will mention as well the importance of the ongoing dialogue with Serbia, as well fighting the extremism that is a Balkan-wide problem.

Inauguration of the first segment of the Motorway “Arber Xhaferi” between Kosovo and Macedonia

President of Kosovo Parliament, Prime Minister, US Ambassador in Kosovo as well many other public figures have inaugurated the first segment of the 60 km long motorway that links Kosovo with Macedonia, expected to be completed in 2018. The road - numerically Route 6 – is Kosovo’s second motorway and is named after the prominent Albanian intellectual and politician from Macedonia, Arber Xhaferi. Motorway will cost around EUR 600 and is being build by American – Turkish company Bechtel – Enka.



This crossroad between two motorways (Ibrahim Rugova between Kosovo and Albanian and Arber Xhaferi between Kosovo and Macedonia) is considered as the largest in the region linking Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia and other West Balkan countries.



Kosovo Prime Minister in his speech said that this is very important project for Kosovo because its citizens and economy will benefit as well road connection between Kosovo and its neighbouring countries. “It is the central leg of a 171km highway traversing the country from the Adriatic Sea to the northeastern border with Kosovo,” a statement from Bechtel said.

Sources: European Union Office in Kosovo / European Union Special Representative in Kosovo, gazetablic.com, worldhighways.com/



Pristina, Kosovo

About the Author



Kushtrim Mehmetaj

International Correspondent
Prishtina, Kosovo



Kushtrim S. Mehmetaj, BS, MS (Strategic Management) is an International Correspondent for PM World Journal for Albania and Kosovo. Mr. Mehmetaj is also working at the M4D OG, Management and Development consulting business. Mr. Mehmetaj has more than 12 years of professional experience in international environments including a number of management, support and advisory positions for various EU, USAID, SCO-K and other internationally financed enterprise and economic development organizations and projects, including the Hope Fellowship Program, the Kosova Private Enterprise Program, and the Kosova Trust Agency.

Kushtrim has extensive knowledge & experience in enterprise change management, modern corporate governance, strategic management, project management, financial & investment analysis, and human resource development. He has experience in investment promotion and economic development, and good knowledge of European Affairs, Competition Law and EU Integration processes.

Kushtrim holds many certificates related to business research, international business, entrepreneurship, market development, corporate governance, strategic management and other subjects directly related to programme and project management. He has master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Prishtina in Kosove and ABMS Switzerland. Kushtrim is fluent in several languages, including English and German, lives in Prishtina and can be contacted at K00752@gmail.com.

For more information, visit
<http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm#Mehmetaj>.