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ICR MEETS MAYORS OF PRISHTINË/PRIŠTINA REGION

The International Civilian Representative (ICR), Pieter Feith, today met with the eight Municipal Mayors of Prishtinë/Priština region, as part of a series of meetings with the Mayors in all regions of Kosovo following the November 2009 municipal elections.

The decentralization process, community rights and the protection and promotion of religious and cultural heritage were the main topics of the discussion.

After the meeting, Pieter Feith said:

“I would like to thank the Mayors for the positive discussion we had on a broad range of subjects related to the Comprehensive Settlement Proposal (CSP).

“We discussed the decentralization process, which brings decision-making closer to the people in all municipalities, and also gave birth to the new municipality of Graçanicë/Gračanica last year. The importance of this process for Kosovo cannot be underestimated. I encourage the mother municipalities and Graçanicë/Gračanica municipality to continue to work together to facilitate the smooth transfer of responsibilities and documents.

“We also discussed the empowerment of local institutions working on protection of community rights. I welcome the good practices in the region, for example maintaining Municipal Community Offices and the appointment of members of

non-majority communities to executive and legislative positions. They can serve as best practices for other municipalities in Kosovo.

“The Prishtinë/Priština region has a number of important and beautiful sites of religious and cultural heritage. Those sites should be protected by law through Special Protective Zones. I encouraged the mayors to work on sustainable development and management of Special Protective Zones to preserve the character of the sites and attract people to visit the region.”

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