



## News Release

Number: 06/2010

Release: Immediate

Date: 30 April 2010

Contact: Andy McGuffie +377 (0)44 509 536

### **CONSTRUCTION PERMITS: MUNICIPALITIES MUST RESPECT CONSTITUTION, LAW – ICO**

Municipalities must respect each others' competences in the issuance of construction permits, the International Civilian Office said today.

Commenting on construction permits issued by the municipality of Prishtinë/Priština after the establishment of the new municipality of Graçanicë/Gračanica, such as those for the 'Marigona' construction project currently being advertised, ICO Spokesperson Andy McGuffie said:

“The Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, Kosovo law and the Comprehensive Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement are all very clear. All executive authority from a ‘mother’ municipality transfers to a new municipality on completion of municipal elections.

“The municipality of Prishtinë/Priština is no longer competent to issue construction permits for land that falls within the boundaries of the new municipality of Graçanicë/Gračanica. The ICO has communicated this to the municipality of Prishtinë/Priština in person and by official letter.

“The International Civilian Representative (ICR) has requested that the Mayor of Prishtinë/Priština ensures that his municipality ceases the issuance of permits with respect to land over which it now holds no competence. The ICR has further requested that steps be taken to address the permits issued since the completion of municipal elections; this includes informing recipients of such permits that construction must stop pending resolution of the matter.

“We look to all municipalities in Kosovo to fully support the decentralization process.” End

### **Note to Editors**

- Transfer of authority from ‘mother’ municipalities to new municipalities is governed by Annex III, Article 12.3 of the *Comprehensive Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement* and Article 13 of the *Law on Administrative Municipal Boundaries* (No. 03/L-041).