

## **Statement of the International Steering Group (ISG) for Kosovo**

*30 June 2008, Pristina, Republic of Kosovo*

1. The International Steering Group (ISG) welcomes the progress made by Kosovo in the first half year since the Declaration of Independence and welcomes in particular the entry into force of the Constitution and 41 laws necessary for the implementation of the Comprehensive Settlement Proposal (CSP). The ISG further welcomes the UN Secretary General's report to the Security Council stating his intention to reconfigure the UN Mission in Kosovo and to facilitate EULEX deployment.
2. The ISG welcomes Norway, Croatia and Lithuania as new members.
3. The ISG expresses its appreciation to the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, for addressing the ISG meeting and reiterating Kosovo's firm commitment to the full and comprehensive implementation of the CSP.
4. The ISG reaffirms its strong support for the International Civilian Representative, Mr Pieter Feith, in his work, supporting the Kosovo authorities in building a democratic and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo in which all communities and their members effectively enjoy the rights and protections to which they are entitled under the CSP and the Constitution.
5. The ISG stresses the importance for the relevant international actors to work throughout the whole territory of Kosovo for the benefit of all inhabitants of Kosovo.
6. The ISG members recall the necessity of establishing institutions related to the security sector, which are apolitical, multi-ethnic and subject to parliamentary oversight and civilian administration.
7. ISG members support the Republic of Kosovo's efforts to participate in relevant international organisations and fora and stress that Kosovo's participation in regional organisations is vital for the stability and development of Kosovo. ISG members will continue to work together with Kosovo authorities to facilitate further recognitions of Kosovo.
8. The ISG welcomes the beginning of the physical demarcation of the joint border between the Republic of Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>.
9. The ISG attaches great significance to the Donors Conference for Kosovo on 11 July in Brussels as an important opportunity for stimulating the economic development of Kosovo.

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<sup>1</sup> Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.