



COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS

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CAA is an non-profit, non-political independent organization founded by a group of former Ambassadors, aiming to promote the highest standards in international and Albanian diplomatic practice.

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STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS ON THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE KOSOVO – SERBIA

Tirana, on 22 June 2020

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors (CAA) notes with pleasure the recent substantial intensification of the political & diplomatic initiatives and actions designed to speed up the resumption of the dialogue and a comprehensive deal for the normalization of relations between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia. The CAA considers as very encouraging the fact that, in the context of the upcoming agreement, the major partners in this process – the EU and the USA have dismissed the possibility of any change of territories and borders in whatever form between these two states.

On this occasion, we recall our letter of 5 March 2020 forwarded to President Trump where, inter alia, we underlined that any alternative approach aimed at revising territories on the basis of ethnic principles would undermine stability in Kosovo and in other multi-ethnic states.

The CAA extends its appreciation for the institutions and political forces in Kosovo for their will and readiness to bring this important process to the end, beneficial both for the state of Kosovo and regional stability as well. Pursuant to that, the CAA does firmly emphasize that time is up to put political grudges and loggerheads aside, both in Kosovo and in the entire Albanian space in the Balkans.

The appeal from CAA is that instead of political protagonism and artificial party divisions, they should seek more than ever the consensus and the unification of the political positions, so that the Republic of Kosovo be represented with utmost dignity, both in the political and professional respects during this historic Dialogue.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors salutes the European Union and the United States of America for their latest initiatives aimed at speeding up this process.

Accordingly, the CAA highlights the importance of the engagement and the leading role by the German Chancellor Madame Merkel and the French President Mr. Macron, the latter also as the host of the Special Summit in Paris on 17 July 2020.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors hails and welcomes the Special Summit due on 27 June 2020 at the White House with the participation of Kosovo and Serbia's leaders, under the auspices of the US President Trump and his Special Envoy, Richard Grenell.

The CAA expresses its confidence that this Meeting will provide a new qualitative impetus and impulse to the dialogue for the normalization of Kosovo – Serbia interstate relations, starting up with economy and following the important documents signed in February this year on the air and rail transport.

On this occasion, the CAA deems it necessary to re-emphasize that the further and lasting success of this historic and challenging dialogue makes the USA – EU cooperation more than necessary. Their joint battles for Kosovo's liberation and independence and the other major achievements in Kosovo and Western Balkans during the last 20 years bear the best testimony to the advantages of this strategic cooperation between Euro-Atlantic partners. Moreover now that Kosovo, Serbia and the whole Western Balkans share common strategic goals, in particular, the visa liberalization and EU accession, membership to NATO and the integration under the Euro-Atlantic umbrella.

Accordingly, the CAA shares the firm belief that the Washington Summit on 27 June and that in Paris on 17 July are two sides of the same medal; they will certainly mark the intensification of an even more efficient and fruitful cooperation between the US and the EU until signing the comprehensive Agreement and the mutual recognition of the sovereignty and integrity of each of the two countries.

Finally, thanks to the expertise, capacities and the presence in this Council of honorable ambassadors from Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia, who have also served in Pristina, Belgrade, Brussels, Washington, Paris, Berlin, London, Rome, Strasbourg and elsewhere, the CAA is willing to offer its own contribution to speed up and conclude this process of major significance and effects for peace, security and stability, not only in Kosovo and Serbia, but all over the Balkans and on a wider scale.



STATEMENT ON THE INDICTMENT FILED BY THE SPECIALIST PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ON KOSOVO

Tirana, 25th of June 2020

On 24 April 2020, the Specialist Prosecutor's Office in the Hague (SPO) filed to the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC) a 10 – count Indictment for Court's consideration. Accordingly, the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Hashim THAÇI, the former Speaker of the Kosovo Assembly, Mr. Kadri VESELI and many others are charged with a range of crimes against humanity and war crimes; among them, murder, enforced disappearance of persons, persecution and torture.

Without prejudicing the international justice, these accusations cannot overshadow the Kosovo liberation struggle, as one of the most brilliant pages of the resistance of Albanians for freedom. The Council of Albanian Ambassadors shares the profound belief that the struggle of the Kosovo Liberation Army was and will be confirmed clean and righteous by international justice, since the KLA fought to defend the people of Kosovo from the Serbian terror, liquidation and genocide. In our judgment, the victim can never be identified with the criminal.

Not withstanding the current circumstances, we are fully confident that the people and the representatives of the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as the whole Albanian people wherever they are will be more unified than ever and cooperate with our European and American friends to keep on the Euro-Atlantic track, as the sole alternative for Albanians and our entire region.

Meanwhile, any interference by other actors and factors that would tempt to hamper this route would be fraught with serious effects for peace, security and stability in our region and on a wider scale.



STATEMENT ON THE GERMAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (1 JULY – 31 DECEMBER 2020)

Tirana, 2 July 2020

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors forwards its greetings to Germany on the occasion of its rotating EU Presidency, likewise we express our enthusiasm for the comprehensive Program of the German Presidency.

Given the wide – ranging catalogue containing an explosive problematics on numerous issues, both for the EU and beyond, the Presidency of the greatest and most powerful state in Europe, a model of democracy and solidarity is indeed a lucky event of major significance and effects, both for the present and the future of our Continent and on a wider scale. The Council of Albanian Ambassadors wishes full-fledged success to the EU German Presidency, first and foremost for the efficient management of COVID – 19, the most serious crisis after the WWII with the well -known effects.

We would also like to express our firm belief that with her leadership, Chancellor Merkel would reach the necessary consensus for the rapid implementation of the gigandic project that she launched on 18 May with the French President Macron and supported by the EU Commission amounting to 750 Billion Euro, as non-returnable grants and subventions, which occurs for the first time ever in the EU history.

Germany is assuming its EU Presidency when Western Balkans is facing several serious challenges. The most recent events following the indictment for serious crimes by the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Kosovo in the Hague against the main Kosovo leaders makes the resumption and promotion of the Dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade more than necessary, in cooperation with the USA and pending the upcoming Summit scheduled for 17 July in Paris.

On this occasion, CAA does also launch the appeal to speed up and finalize this year the visa liberalization with Kosovo. The Council of Albanian Ambassadors believes that as hitherto, during its EU Presidency, Germany and Chancellor Merkel, a proven friend of Albania will attach the proper priority to the opening of the EU Accession negotiations with Albania.

To this end, CAA calls on the Albanian government and diplomacy as well as on other relevant organizations to step up and materialize the relevant well-known conditions, so that the German Presidency would be able to open the « green light » to the First Intergovernmental Conference within this year.



STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS ON THE TRAGIC EXPLOSION IN BEIRUT

Tirana, 6 August 2020



The painful explosion on the 4th of August in Beirut that shocked the whole world public opinion with its tragic proportions is also being followed with immense concern and solidarity by the Council of Albanian Ambassadors.(CAA)

The human casualties, injuries and the huge material damages in the city crucified with pain have captured our attention; they do also bring us closer to Lebanon at these very hard moments of facing this tragedy. There are ancient historic links between our two countries dating back to the time of the brilliant leadership of Lebanon by Governor Vaso Pasha, a prominent and genuine personality of our Renaissance; it has continued with communications of solidarity in the later periods of the mortal conflicts that have plagued this country for decades on end; all these make us feel closer spiritually during these exceptional hard days to all those who have lost their beloved ones and to the entire people of Lebanon.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors with many diplomats who have served in Lebanon or who have been there on diplomatic mission is stunned from what happened on the apocalyptic afternoon on the 4th of August. The CAA extends its greatest feelings of solidarity to the friendly people of Lebanon; it expresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the victims, hoping that this tragedy would very soon be replaced with reconstruction work, so that Beirut would regain its merited radiation.

Pain but also faith in peace and the reconstructive power based on the solidarity of the entire globe during these hard moments come close together, clinging firmly to the hope that the power of human values would triumph.

COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A MARITIME AGREEMENT WITH GREECE

Tirana, 10 August 2020

Recalling its significance and special relevance to Albania, the Council of Albanian Ambassadors has been following with a great deal of attention and priority the latest intensive demarches of the Greek diplomacy for the delimitation of the Maritime Exclusive Economic Areas. Most recently, on 6 August, Greece signed such an agreement with Egypt, whereas on 8 June with Italy; likewise, these negotiations are expected to take place with Israel, Cyprus and Libya.

Likewise, a few days ago, the top Greek and Turkish leaders expressed in principle their readiness to resume the bilateral talks for the delimitation of the Maritime Exclusive Economic Areas in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Given the above-mentioned, in June and even a few days ago, the Greek Foreign Minister, Mr. Dendias stated in public that Greece will request the resumption of negotiations for an agreement on delimitation of the Maritime Areas with Albania, following the one signed in 2009 but nullified in 2010 by Albania's Constitutional Court and two other failed attempts in 2017 and 2018.

On this occasion and due to the lack of transparency on this issue of exceptional political and public sensitiveness, the CAA draws the attention of the Albanian government and diplomacy to the proper consideration and in due time to this new defining momentum in the relations with neighbouring Greece. This makes it necessary for us to be well prepared, with concrete and convincing alternatives and updates, in a well – coordinated manner with the high institutions and their relevant instances.

To this end, it is indeed a “Must” to start as early as possible the relevant consultations, the exchange of ideas and opinions on the preliminary alternatives in their proper formats with the expert teams, without political, party and other prejudices in the juridical, economic, military, technical, security and other aspects.



COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A MARITIME AGREEMENT WITH GREECE

Tirana, 10 August 2020

In addition, on the basis of more objective criteria, we do also suggest selecting and building a new all-inclusive, competent and specialized negotiating team.

It goes without saying that the scrutiny of the political deals that Greece, in particular, has drafted and will sign with the above-mentioned states is of primary importance. However, attention should be made to avoid any copy paste or mechanic references, bearing well in mind our conditions and circumstances, the technical, commercial, international law in general and the maritime one more specifically, and other specific issues.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors takes this opportunity to emphasize that the various debates, discussions and suggestions on a possible agreement should not be made in haste and they should be free from exaggerated mediatization. Meanwhile, the upcoming negotiations for this deal, with their wide-ranging concrete and complicated problematics are of vital significance for our country's interests; they are also equally important to further bilateral cooperation and relations with neighbouring Greece.

Likewise, the clear definition of goals and the good performance in this process may have its own effects on Albania's EU accession negotiations. It is common knowledge that a major political and diplomatic condition for each and every EU candidate state is to level out any difference or problem with its neighbours before it joins the EU.

Accordingly, the Council of Albanian Ambassadors expresses its firm belief and confidence that the Albanian government and diplomacy will step up their activity and efforts, accompanying this comprehensive process with the proper public information and transparency, certainly within the diplomatic ethics and rules.

Finally, since it has a number of renowned ambassadors, who have been committed as long-serving and experienced professors and experts to the complex issues of the Maritime International Law and practice, the CAA is open and willing to render its modest contribution hereto.

THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS HAILS THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO AND THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA WITH THE MEDIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Tirana, 5 September 2020

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors (CAA) has followed attentively the developments related to the negotiations held in Washington between the delegations of the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia mediated by the United States of America.

We hold that the accords reached in Washington intended primarily to normalize economic relations between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia are an important step towards the stability and prosperity of the whole region by and large.

However, the process of normalization of relations between Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia will be over only when Serbia recognizes Kosovo's independence and gives up any idea or platform designed to impair the territorial sovereignty, integrity and the functionality of the Republic of Kosovo.

The CAA considers the recognition of Kosovo's Independence by the State of Israel and the establishment of diplomatic relations between them as an historic moment, which consolidates the international position of the State of Kosovo and confirms the historic bonds between Albanian and Hebrew peoples.

CAA is encouraged by US active role in the process of the normalization of the relations between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia. This does once again confirm the US ongoing and irreplaceable role for the freedom and independence of Kosovo, as well as for peace and democracy in the Balkans.

The Euro-Atlantic umbrella is the strongest assurance for peace and security in our region and the major pillar of the values of democracy, the rule of law and social justice.

The CAA does firmly believe that the USA and the European states that have for years on end contributed to peace and stability in Western Balkans will support Kosovo's prospect for membership to NATO and to the EU. At a time of present political agendas and tendencies in our region that view its future beyond the Euro-Atlantic track, the strong EU and NATO anchorship in the region becomes even more indispensable.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors takes this opportunity to emphasize that the Albanian people, wherever they are is a nation with a strong vocation to the European values, a nation with a diversity of confessions living in full harmony among them.



STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS ON THE ECONOMIC & INVESTMENT PLAN AND THE PROGRESS REPORT 2020 OF THE EU COMMISSION ON WESTERN BALKANS

Tirana, 8 October 2020

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors warmly welcomes the endorsement on 6 October 2020 of the comprehensive Plan on Economic Recovery and Investments 2021 – 2027 and the Progress Report 2020 on Western Balkans by the EU Commission. It should be emphasized that this is not simply a matter of humanitarian and development aids.

Although, following the previous projects in these areas, in the International Donor's Conference in Brussels in February, the EU Commission collected 1,15 Billion Euro for the avoidance of the effects of the Earthquake of 26 November 2019. Then, in May, it delivered 3,3 Billion Euro for the countries of the Region in the context of the Pandemic COVID – 19.

As the EU Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement, Mr. Oliver Varhelyi underlined in his official encounters in Tirana on 7 October, this is a major all-inclusive Project amounting to 9 Billion Euro. Its 10 vital components range from economic recovery to investment promotion, employment growth, fostering know – how, vigorously supporting youth, so that they would see themselves living in their own countries in the future, a much more efficient connection and interaction among the region's states and, finally the acceleration of the economic convergence with the EU.

CAA notices with satisfaction that these essential elements are not conceived as an aim in itself, but to the full-fledged benefit of political, cultural and social integration of the region to the EU.

To this end, the Economic and Investment Plan has been designed in large – scale projects in infrastructure, transport, energy, trade and other areas with an far – reaching « geography ». South – North, East – West, the Coastline areas and others, accompanied with the construction of modern inter – regional roads, highways, railways, ports, airports and other facilities.

Apart from the above-mentioned, given their relevance and urgency, the said Plan does also include two defining agendas for the future of the countries in the region – the transition to digital and to Green Economy; the later will be submitted to the EU – Western Balkan Special Summit due to be held in Sofia in early November. Both these agendas represent new qualitative components, which would guarantee the success and effectiveness of the projects, programs and processes related to economic growth and investments; besides, they would provide adequate solutions to serious challenges, such as economic competition, climate changes, global warming, natural calamities and others.



CAA is pleased to note that the Economic and Investment Plan confirms and consolidates the absolute priority that the EU attaches to Western Balkans, as an integral part and follow up of the next two major moments during this year:

The New Strategy designed to invigorate the EU Enlargement process to our region as adopted in early February; and secondly, the decision by the EU Council on 25 March on the opening of the EU Accession talks with Albania (with the 15 conditions) and North Macedonia. CAA calls on the Government and the implementing agencies to make the proper assessment of this new historic momentum and to start working on applying these projects. This does urgently require the establishment where they are missing and the expansion of the technical and administrative capacities, a growing public transparency, avoidance of informality, corruption and other negative occurrences.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors notes with concern that these weaknesses, defects and delays are also mentioned in the Progress Report 2020, which should be analyzed and done away with as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, despite the cautious diplomatic language, the said Report does not mention « Albania is complying with the conditions » but only that « Albania is near this compliance » regarding the opening of the negotiations this year. Therefore, the remaining period until December, when the First Inter- Governmental Conference could be summoned should be used to speed up and finish the relevant procedures for setting up the High and Constitutional Court and completing the Electoral Reform, under the relevant terms and conditions decided by the EU Council.

CAA expresses its confidence that the Progress Report 2020 and, specifically, the Economic and Investment Plan of the EU Commission will serve to all political actors and factors in Albania to step up the efforts, so that the upcoming EU Summit would be able to call the said Conference in December, which would also mark the opening of the EU Membership talks. Actually, the hurdles to this process do not lie in the « domestic dynamics or electoral needs » of any single country in the EU ; instead, they relate only to internal confrontations, crises and problems in Albania. Accordingly, the merit and the responsibility for the achievement of this strategic goal is and will fall upon the Albanian political establishment, and notably to the parliamentary majority and its government. Finally, the CAA takes this opportunity to thank once again and salute the EU Commission and all Member States without exception for their multi-faceted assistance and support, so that our region and Albania would get much closer to the EU.

THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS CONDEMNS THE BARBAROUS ATTACKS IN PARIS AND IN VIENNA

Tirana, 3 November 2020

The tragic events in the recent days in Paris and in Vienna have deeply shocked the whole civilized world. They run opposite to cohabitation and the values of civilization; they are demonstrations of the extreme violence, condemned by all those who think and aspire peace and prosperity.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors condemns vehemently these atrocious attacks that have selected as their target the symbols of European civilization; it does also denounce with all its force every hateful rhetoric and language designed to incite such abominable attacks.

With our souls and thoughts, we are all in Paris and Vienna, where human power and solidarity is now needed more than ever to overcome the enormous pain inflicted by these barbarous attacks.

We are firmly convinced that the human values will win over any sort of extremism.

THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS HAILES THE GREAT DAY OF INDEPENDENCE!

Tirana, 28 November 2020

The Flag Day is the greatest celebration in the modern history of Albanian nation; it is commemorated with pride and dignity by all our compatriots in Albania and wherever they live worldwide. The Council of Albanian Ambassadors takes this happy opportunity to extend its greetings to all and to emphasize that 28 November is deeply rooted in our historic, national and political self-awareness.

The existence of the Albanian State for Albanians wherever they have been residing, albeit its political and ideological system and constitutional order has constituted the hope, faith and the dream that one day they would fulfill their aspiration for freedom.

Trust and love for Albania, the red & black banner, the common cultural values, traditions and the same blood bonds have kept us alive throughout the Century of separation.

This 28 November finds us facing the major challenge of overcoming the global pandemic Covid-19, which we want to have the least possible effects for all.

We hope and wish that the next Anniversary of this Day finds us in perfect health and with a better Albania, closer to Europe! Once more we wish that our Albania keeps on advancing and the vital Albanian nation be integrated on its proper place in the flows of global development.



STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS ON THE OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Tirana, February 2nd 2021

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors welcomes the official establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Kosovo and the State of Israel.

The establishment of the diplomatic relations between Kosovo and Israel is an important diplomatic, historic, cultural and economic step forward between these two countries.

This Agreement makes Israel the 117th state that has recognised Republic of Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state.

With this act, the State of Kosovo strengthens his position in the international arena, making new friends in the Middle East as well. This act paves the way to the intensification of the bilateral inter-institutional cooperation in all areas of mutual benefit.

This historic event confirms once again the Albanian – Israeli friendship.

We express our gratitude and thanks to the USA for all its support extended in reaching this Agreement.



STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS ON THE ELECTIONS OF 14 FEBRUARY IN KOSOVO

Tirana, 15 February 2021

The parliamentary elections of 14 February 2021 in Kosovo proved once again that the democratic processes there are progressing in their fortunate tack. The people of Kosovo went to polls calmly, the political leaders conceded the result and the legitimacy of the winners now passes on to responsibility, so that they can prove worthy of the trust endowed upon them.

The Movement for Self – Determination (LVV) as the winner of these elections is facing the much expected challenge and moment to build a new consensus in Kosovo, as a functional state relying on democratic processes.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors expresses the confidence that all the parties that will go in opposition will make a healthy analyses of the result and learn from the necessary guiding lessons.

Democracy in Kosovo needs a strong and constructive opposition in view of pushing state-building there ahead.

We hope that the new government will be invested towards the Euro – Atlantic Kosovo, as a developed state, with the primacy of social justice and the rule of law.

Kosovo's economy is also in need of new oxygen, for an attractive relationship with the neighbors, based on mutual partnership and benefit.

We are fully confident that with vision and commitment, LVV and its partners in the coalition will be standard bearers and inspirers of the people interests, whose ballots charged them with a responsibility never seen before.

We do also wish that Albania, which is on the eve of its general elections will show a high political and democratic level compliant to European standards, so that the free will of Albanians would be expressed towards their European future.



THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS WELCOMES THE DRAFT – RESOLUTION OF THE FOREIGN COMMITTEE OF THE EU PARLIAMENT ON ALBANIA

Tirana, 6 March 2021

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors (CAA) welcomes the Draft – Resolution on Albania, which was adopted by the Foreign Committee of the EU Parliament on the 4th of March 2021.

CAA takes this opportunity to commend the full-fledged and ongoing support that the EU Parliament has been providing to Albania on its path to EU Membership.

This support offered particularly by the two largest political groups in the EU Parliament proves that Albania's friends in Europe are numerous and prevailing.

This reality should further mobilize the governmental, constitutional and independent institutions to fulfil rapidly and with priority all relevant conditions ; the latter would enable not only the start of accession negotiations but also their swift advancement.

CAA calls notably on the domestic political establishment, so that the upcoming elections on 25 April would be conducted in a peaceful climate, they would be free and fair and in keeping with the internationally – recognized standards.

Albania and Albanians deserve a democratic electoral process, untarnished by irregularities, the language of hatred and the sell & purchase of ballots.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors renews its gratefulness to the EU for all its support to Albania, including the financial aids to overcome the medical, economic and social difficulties produced by Pandemic Covid – 19.





THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS HAILES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

Tirana, 24 Mars 2021

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors (CAA) hails the establishment of the new Government of the Republic of Kosovo that emerged from the free and democratic elections held on 14 February 2021.


While congratulating the new Government and its Prime Minister, H.E. Albin Kurti, for the confidence entrusted on them by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo at the Session held on 22 March 2021, the CAA expresses its trust and expectation that the Government led by Mr. Kurti and the whole Kosovo political spectrum will successfully meet the major challenges that the Republic of Kosovo is facing, both in the domestic and international respect.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors is pleased to emphasize that in terms of this democratic process, the Kosovo citizens and political forces have manifested a high democratic culture and a consolidated political maturity.

Thanks to managing an election process with an entirely democratic spirit, receiving the vote in favor for the Government at the relevant Assembly session characterized by parliamentary debates and the governing transition by hand-over& admitting the office in a very dignified manner, the Republic of Kosovo has set a pattern for our whole region.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors hopes and believes that this democratic spirit and political dialogue will be the common denominator for all other political processes lying ahead for Kosovo, including the appointments and establishment of the other state institutions

Likewise, on the Anniversary of the NATO intervention to stop the Serbian genocide against Albanians of Kosovo, the best message that Kosovo could convey to the democratic world is the very advancement of the state of Kosovo by vigorously embracing the principles of freedom and democracy, as sublime values of the Euro – Atlantic space.



COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS CONGRATULATES THE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO H.E. VJOSA OSMANI-SADRIU

Tirana, 6th April 2021



Honorable Madame President,

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors and I personally followed with special attention the Plenary Session of the Assembly of Kosovo, which elected You as President of the Republic.

Accordingly, the conclusion of the process of building the state institutions emerging from the people's free will in the latest elections is good news also for us. Thus, enrooting the democratic culture made a significant step forward. Please, accept our most heartfelt wishes and and congratulations for every success!

We, the members of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors have full confidence on your abilities, commitment, integrity and vision to play the historic role entrusted and endowed on You by Kosovo citizens and the Constitution of the Republic.

Indeed, you have become the incarnation of the hopes of the whole Kosovo society and youth, in particular, in view of constructing lives in their fatherland; as a country not only free and independent, but prosperous as well, where democracy is advancing resolutely and human rights are incessantly protected and promoted.

This inspiring hope does also apply to the sacred aspiration of Kosovo people to move rapidly ahead in the path of Euro-Atlantic integration by strengthening with each passing day their friendship with the USA and the EU.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors takes this opportunity to assure You, dear Madame President and through You the Kosovo Assembly and the Government that it is ready to extend its support to the substantial reforms due to be launched. True, our capacities are modest; yet, our desire to be useful with our experience is immense.

Finally, please, Madame President, accept the assurances of my highest consideration!

Besnik Mustafaj

President of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors

THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS RECEIVED IN A WORKING LUNCHEON PROF.DAVID L. PHILIPS

Tirana, 7 June 2021

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors Received in a Working Luncheon Prof. David L. Philips, a Friend of Albanians and a good Reconnaissanceur of the Balkans.

Today, we had the opportunity to exchange views on developments in Albania, Kosovo and in our region by and large as well as on the necessity of US increased commitment in strengthening peace, security and democratic progress in Western Balkans.

During this meeting, it was also emphasized the US significant role in consolidating democracy and the rule of law and in combatting corruption and organized crime in the region. Currently, Professor Philips is Director of the Programme for Peace and Human Rights in the Columbia University in USA.

Previously, he has served as Senior Advisor to the US State Department during the Bush, Clinton and Obama Administrations ; he has also led the Western Balkans Task Force to the Foreign Relations Council. Prof.Philips has also been Advisor to the Kosovo Government on its dialogue with Serbia, persisting on Kosovo's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.



CAA CONGRATULATES ALBANIA'S FIRST ELECTION TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

June 12th, 2021

For the first time, since its membership, in 14 December 1955, to the United Nations, Albania is elected as a non permanent member to the United Nations Security Council, the highest UN body, for the term 2022-2023. CAA congratulates Albania's first election to the UN Security Council.

This is a welcome news for the country and for the region. Albania will have a key role to play for peace and security, especially in light of global challenges that need to be addressed in a renewed spirit of multilateral cooperation and consensus.

CAA expresses its full support to the core diplomatic team involved in this new task, and is confident that they will live up to its highly demanding responsibilities.





THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS WELCOMES THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO AND THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Tirana, 18 June 2021

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors (CAA) welcomes the resumption of talks between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia on the normalization of their inter-state relations.

These talks, facilitated by the EU with the US support should conclude with the mutual recognition, as the only way for the full-fledged normalization of the relations between these two states. This would be not only to the benefit of both countries but also a big step towards strengthening peace, stability and the Euro-Atlantic future in our region.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors does firmly believe that stability and prosperity in our region are inextricably linked to upholding sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state, observing the principles of democracy and human rights, as well as protecting and advancing the position of ethnic minorities.

The Agreement on the normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo should be reached within these principles, which are also enshrined in the Ahtisaari Package and in the Opinion of the International Court of Justice.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors deems it necessary to underline that the Euro – Atlantic prospect is the driving force to sustainable stability and prosperity in the Balkans. Accordingly, this prospect should be genuine and touchable for all the countries in the region.

In this context, since the relevant conditions have been met long ago, CAA highlights the importance of the quickest possible visa liberalisation for Kosovo by the EU.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors encourages the representatives of the Republic of Kosovo and all political forces there to commit themselves with the spirit of self-confidence and professionalism to the EU and US supported talks with the Republic of Serbia.

Likewise, the CAA encourages the EU Chief Mediator, Mr. Lajçak to be guided in this process by the underlying principles of this dialogue, with self-restraint from emotional and inadequate attitudes.

The future of the Republic of Kosovo lies under the umbrella of the EU and NATO with the Euro-Atlantic values deeply rooted in the foundations of Kosovo state.

A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND IN INDEED

Tirana, August 16th 2021

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors is concerned with the recent developments and the escalation of violence in Afghanistan and appeal for calm, negotiation and peaceful solution of the current crisis.

Albanians have long contributed within the NATO framework for peace and stability in the country. We consider as a human obligation to offer temporary refuge to those Afghans who have supported the Allies missions and now fear for their lives.

Supporting the governments of Albania and Kosovo decision to offer safe shelter to the Afghan citizens in leave, we urge to act promptly and in a transparent and coordinated approach with all the stakeholders in the respective countries, to honor our obligations and the Albanian well-known hospitality.

A friend in need is a friend in indeed.

THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS CALLS ON THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO STOP CONFLICT-INCITING RHETORIC AND ATTEMPTS TO ESCALATE TENSIONS

Tirana, 25th of September 2021

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors is following with concern the developments in the northern part of the Republic of Kosovo.

We strongly support the legitimate decision of the Republic of Kosovo to establish reciprocity in the handling of license plates of vehicles entering the territory of the Republic of Kosovo by the Republic of Serbia.

Council of Albanian Ambassadors regrets that the agreements reached in Brussels do not find the will to be implemented, undermining the achievements of the EU-mediated dialogue process. The Council of Albanian Ambassadors emphasizes that the peace, stability and prosperity of our region can be built only on the basis of equality and mutual respect of all states and peoples. There will not be stability in the region by reverting to behaviors and actions that incite violence and hatred.

We call on the Republic of Serbia to stop conflict-inciting rhetoric and attempts to escalate tensions. Such an approach led by the highest state levels of Serbia is not in the interest of anyone, much less in the interest of the citizens of the Serbian ethnicity of the Republic of Kosovo. The conflicting rhetoric of Belgrade and Moscow, the movement of Serbian military forces on the border with Kosovo and the criminal attacks on the vehicle registration offices of Zubin Potok and Zvecan, are unacceptable and an alarm bell to curb the situation out of control in time. The CAA calls on the EU, NATO and the US to react swiftly and unequivocally to Serbia's conflict-promoting policies and actions.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors reiterates that dialogue and integration process into European and Euro-Atlantic structures are the only way to peace, stability and prosperity in our region.

COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS WELCOMES THE BRDO EU-WESTERN BALKANS SUMMIT, AND ITS CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Tirana, October 6th 2021



The Council of Albanian Ambassadors welcomes the Brdo EU-Western Balkans Summit, and its concluding statement.

EU's unequivocal support for the European perspective of the WB region, as a mutual strategic interest and choice, remains a solid pillar of the contractual relationship established since the 2001 Götteborg Summit.

Whereas CAA encourages further mutual commitment to EU enlargement, recalls that communication and deliverables are vital for this process.

The EU has solidly become the region's closest partner, main investor and principal donor, in line with the natural and strategic approach for the future of the Continent.

CAA welcomes further reinforcement of this approach with the ambitious Economic Investment Plan and the new Innovation Agenda for the Western Balkans, tackling imminent challenges for our countries and peoples, such as economic depression and migration.

CAA appeals on the governments of the WB countries for a more pro-active approach in implementing more credible reforms, particularly in view of living up to their pledged commitment for European values and principles.

Welcoming the decision to organize regular EU-Western Balkan Summits, CAA encourages EU member states for the swift opening of accession negotiations with Albania and Republic of North Macedonia, and granting Kosova a visa-free regime, same as all other countries in the region.

CAA 3RD ANNIVERSARY

Tirana, October 14, 2021

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors, I warmly thank you all for your presence in this friendly gathering.

Slowly – but hopefully surely- we are leaving behind a very difficult period for all mankind.

Besides immeasurable human grief and distress, COVID-19 deprived us from meeting each other, from even a simple handshake, a conventional sign of friendship. This is exactly among the reasons of this gathering, to meet again, as friends.

Members of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors remain convinced that the ultimate objective of good diplomacy is to build bridges of friendship between individuals, nations and states. With its very modest means, the Council of Albanian Ambassadors works towards this goal. All members of our organization have spent a good part of their lives under a regime, whose foreign policy was inspired by the totalitarian ideology of animosity against other nations, ending up to seclusion and total isolation of the country.

This memory will accompany us to the end of life. Although, it is a useful reminder to better understand and support our foreign policy, whose priority must remain Albania's European integration, serving to the present and future of the nation, by strengthening democracy, the rule of law, free trade, and fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors has also supported and continues to do so, on every foreign policy effort to intensify Albania's relations with the United States. We believe that relations with the US and the EU, are of strategic importance for Albania as well as for Kosova and Northern Macedonia.

I included Kosova and Northern Macedonia along with Albania, because the Council of Albanian Ambassadors, since its establishment, has been welcoming towards our colleagues from Pristina and our Albanian colleagues in the Republic of Northern Macedonia. This fact deserves a little explanation.

Kosova's independence is already an irreversible reality. We note with great satisfaction the full determination of all political forces in Kosova to be guided by Western values, clearly reflected in the activity of state institutions to move the country forward on the path of Euro-Atlantic integration. There can be no secure and prosperous future for Kosova outside the Euro-Atlantic family. The support of experienced diplomats for a pro-European and pro-American foreign policy, is certainly valuable, regardless of them being no longer part of the diplomatic corps of the Republic of Kosova.



We had the same approach in mind when we invited our Albanian colleagues from the Republic of Northern Macedonia to join our organization. The Albanian political factor in Northern Macedonia has played a vital role in preserving the unity and integrity of this new republic. And just as vital continues to remain the role of Albanians in safeguarding and advancing the Euro- Atlantic orientation of their multiethnic country.

It has been the Euro-Atlantic orientation therefore, the common denominator uniting us with our colleagues from Pristina, Skopje and Tetovo, as well as the Albanian language and the common will to serve this orientation unconditionally, despite the fact that we live in three sovereign republics. We are jointly convinced that there is no secure and sustainable future for our countries and societies away from this path.

We have consistently expressed our full readiness to voluntarily offer our experience at the service of state institutions, especially those planning and implementing our foreign policy. We publicly reiterated this willingness upon Albania's election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2022-2023. Some of the members of our Council have been at the very origin of this initiative, the first of its kind in the centennial history of our state. We remain as confident as we were fifteen years ago, when this initiative was launched and Albania submitted its candidacy bid, that the Albanian diplomatic corps indeed has the necessary capacities to distinctly fulfill this remarkable undertaking. We, as fellow diplomats, are proud and happy to see Albania in its role as direct contributor to world peace and stability.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors reaffirms its absolute wish and willingness to support our country's foreign policy towards its European and Euro-Atlantic pathway, as well as its openness to further build lasting relations of mutual interest with all countries working for world peace and prosperity.

Although, let me bring to your attention, dear friends, that CAA is not an appendix of state institutions and agencies in charge of international relations. We are and continue to be an independent organization.

Our independence serves only to the public interest. This means that, besides our support and encouragement, we will always take a critical look and recommend as appropriate, when we perceive something is going the wrong direction.

For example, many of our positions regarding the European integration process have encouraged implementations of precisely those standards, the lack of which compelled Chancellor Merkel to emphasize during the BrdoSummit, that "so far no accession could take place because the conditions haven't yet been met by any of the Western Balkan countries."

Therefore, we will continue to follow such realistic approach in the future.

It is high time that the Albanian political class demonstrates political maturity and responsibility, by resolving pressing issues without foreign mediation, for every case and on every occasion. The Albanian politicians and institutions must grow to the expected levels in meeting current challenges. Their action and approach must reflect the dignity and integrity of a European and civilized nation.

Thanking you once again for your presence, please enjoy yourselves!

Besnik MUSTAJ

CAA President

CAA ALARMED: BALKAN PEACE PROCESSES UNDER SERIOUS THREAT

Tirana, 6 November 2021

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors is following with great concern the latest political developments in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Extreme ethnic polarization and growing tensions fueled by toxic rhetoric, conflicting policies, and the provocative actions of Republika Srpska in Bosnia Herzegovina, pose a serious threat to its stability and territorial integrity, and undermine stability and peace in our region.

Bosnia Herzegovina saw the most tragic episode of bloodshed during the break-up of former Yugoslavia, caused by the hegemonic policies and genocide of Milosevic's Serbia. Historical facts cannot and should not be silenced.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors reminds the international community that tolerating separatist policies and hate speech could perilously lead to recurrence of past dark scenarios.

EU and NATO countries must be determined and unanimous in preventing every fait accompli approach seeking to destabilize the Western Balkans, menacing also NATO and EU security perimeter.

The sleepwalking and silence of powerful democratic countries vis a vis actions that undermine Peace Processes and multiethnic coexistence in the region, downgrade the image and indispensable leverage that these factors have towards prevailing Euro-Atlantic strategic orientation.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors also calls on the political leaders of the countries in the region to boldly and unequivocally oppose every tendency to undermine the functioning and territorial integrity of Bosnia Herzegovina.

The future of our region does not lie in ethnic divisions, but in inter-ethnic coexistence and Euro-Atlantic integration.



THE ESCALATION OF POLITICAL TENSIONS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ALARMING

Tirana, 16 December 2021

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors follows with concern the escalation of political tensions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, fueled by the secessionist actions of the authorities of the Republika Srpska of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Recent decisions by the Republika Srpska Parliament to begin drafting relevant legislation to create parallel institutions for the army, courts and tax system, as well as drafting a new constitution, pave the way for the withdrawal of Serbs from central state institutions. They are against the obligations arising from the Dayton Accord and are intended to undermine the peace that it has created.

The conflicting rhetoric of the Bosnian Serb leadership and the disintegrating actions of their institutions are a prelude to the scenarios of the 1990s. These scripts were written by Belgrade and resulted in Srebrenica, Vukovar and Recak massacres.

The fact that the latest escalation in Bosnia and Herzegovina comes after the visit to Moscow of Bosnian Serb leader Dodik, as well as at a time of rising tensions on the border between Ukraine and Russia, is even more troubling.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors calls on the international community, especially the EU, NATO and the US, to react decisively and in unison to the escalation of the secessionist actions of the Serb leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The ethno-nationalist policies and disintegrating actions of the Republika Srpska of Bosnia and Herzegovina pose a serious threat to the stability of our entire region. The Council of Albanian Ambassadors, once again draws attention to the fact that peace and stability in our region, as well as its Euro-Atlantic perspective, can be easily undermined by the silence of democratic countries in the face of the resurgence of Milosevic's conflictual policies.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors reiterates its call on the countries of the region to openly and unequivocally oppose any tendency to undermine the functionality and integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Only in this way can we move forward on the path of progress and Euro- Atlantic integration of our region.



ALBANIA SUPPORTS SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF UKRAINE

Tirana, February 2nd 2022

It was a pleasure to have among us today the Ambassador of Ukraine H.E.Volodymyr Shkurov with whom we had a valuable exchange of views and information on disturbing developments around Ukraine.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors considers that any threat to Ukraine constitutes a serious violation of international law and a serious concern to European security and calls for the settlement of disputes through negotiations.

Albania, both as a NATO member and a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, is on Ukraine's side in defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY BELOVED KOSOVA.

Tirana, 17 February 2022

On this special day for Kosovo and our nation – on the birthday of the state of Kosovo, the Council of Albanian Ambassadors expresses its warmest heartfelt wishes for the unstoppable progress and for the prosperity of all its citizens.

In this 14th Anniversary of Independence, the second largest event in the history of Albanians, we have the legitimacy and pride, but also the deep national gratitude, to remember and honor all those who have worked and sacrificed for decades for this great achievement. It is the duty of us all to respond with humility and commitment to their countless sacrifices. The Republic of Kosovo, recognized by 115 countries around the world, a member of many international organizations, reflects its responsible commitment to Western values. It is already an active contributor to security in the region and beyond.

In the second decade as an independent and sovereign state, Kosovo has proven to be a democratic country, and consolidating its western democratic values. The challenges it now faces require that unity prevail around the strategic objective of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, as well as further recognition in the international arena.

Unanimous representation of Kosovo and coordination with strategic partners will enable the successful finalization of the mediated dialogue with Serbia – as well as the mutual recognition between the two countries.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors expresses its deep conviction that the people and institutions of Kosovo, with determination, commitment and strategic clarity, will continue the common path in the protection and further strengthening of their state and the values of the Euro-Atlantic future of Kosovo.



THE RECOGNITION OF THE SELF-DECLARED REPUBLICS OF DONETSK AND LUHANSK BY RUSSIA IS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Tirana, February 22nd 2022

The recognition of the self-declared republics of Donetsk and Luhansk by Russia is a clear violation of international law and of the Minsk agreement, and seriously undermines territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.

Council of Albanian Ambassadors believes that, this should serve as an urgent appeal for the international community to act quickly to stop acts of aggression and turn to the negotiation table and settle disputes in a peaceful manner.

Albania will continue to stand close to Ukraine respecting its territorial integrity and sovereignty, as well as the history of the country.

Ukraine's aspiration to decide on its future path both joining EU and NATO are merely on its citizen's rights and a fundamental column of a democratic country.

WAR IS NOT PEACE

Tirana, 24th of February 2022

Council of Albanian Ambassadors strongly condemns Russia's military and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine! This attack against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, which violates international law and threatens the lives of millions of civilians, poses a direct threat to European and Euro-Atlantic security.

Russia must stop this military aggression and return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue.

Council of Albanian Ambassadors fully supports NATO and the EU in their efforts to respond decisively and proportionately to this unacceptable attack.

We stand with the people of Ukraine in this dark day.



UKRAINE NEEDS UNWAVERING SUPPORT

Tirana, March 17th 2022

Russia is increasingly isolated – with an unbending UN resolution condemning its unjustifiable aggression, with painful and substantial US, EU, UK and other sanctions, with exclusion from the Council of Europe, with ICC order to halt invasion, and the list will not stop until Russia ends its horrors against Ukraine.

A global anti-war coalition is the only effective way of stopping Russian barbarism against civilians and a sovereign country.

While Ukraine must have all significant support to resist this unjustifiable war, NATO and EU must step up in resetting collective defense at these trying times.

At the extraordinary NATO Summit of 24 March, North America and Europe have a historic chance of showing their unwavering resolve and courage to stand for the shared values and principles laying at the very fundamentals of the alliance of the free and democratic countries.

THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS SUPPORTS THE APPLICATIONS OF FINLAND & SWEDEN FOR NATO MEMBERSHIP

Tirana 19th May 2022

Finland and Sweden are in their sovereign right to seek membership in the world's most successful Collective Defense Alliance, fully embodying the essence of democratic values and respect for human rights which NATO protects & promotes.

CAA is confident that their membership in the Alliance will strengthen the European security architecture, and will protect the inviolability of this perimeter from any unjustifiable and unprovoked threats.

CAS supports all political-diplomatic efforts of both countries to fulfill their just request and calls on Albanian institutions to follow as soon as possible with all necessary procedures under Albanian law.

On this occasion, the CAA reiterates the importance of Albania's membership in NATO 13 years ago, joining with allies who stand in full support & solidarity with each other.

CELEBRATING 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ALBANIA – US DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Tirana, June 28th 2022

THE FIRST HISTORIC VISIT OF A US PRESIDENT TO ALBANIA.

On the 15th anniversary of the visit of President George W. Bush to Tirana, the Council of Albanian Ambassadors, with the support of the Council of American Ambassadors, organized on June 28 the commemorative conference “The first historic visit of an American President to Albania.”

This event, held in the framework of the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations Albania – US, aimed to restore the deserved echo of a unique visit to our bilateral relations and the decisive support that President Bush gave from Tirana for membership of Albania in NATO and the declaration of independence of Kosovo.

As Mr. Besnik Mustafaj, President of the Council of Ambassadors, pointed out in his keynote address, we do not intend to write or rewrite history on this occasion, but to nurture the memory of Albanians.


President Bush’s visit to Tirana was not accidental, but was the result of a clear Euro-Atlantic orientation and towards Western democratic values. The speakers were from Tirana, Pristina and the US, former senior diplomats as well as well-known international relations scholars.

A special greeting was conveyed by the Council of American Ambassadors through its President, Ambassador Timothy Chorba and the senior Vice President Ambassador Philip Hughes, stating: “15 years ago, President George W. Bush paid the first visit of an American President to Albania. “Pro-American sentiment in Skanderbeg Square, a few meters from where you are meeting, was really impressive and touched the hearts of the American people.

Professor Daniel Server from the Institute for Foreign Policy in Washington, in his video message noted that: “President Bush’s visit was an appreciation of your commitment to the West and an incentive to continue on the Euro-Atlantic path.”

In this spirit were brought rich experiences and analyzes regarding the decisive impact that this visit of President Bush had on the Euro-Atlantic perspective of Albania, Kosovo and our entire region.





Albania in NATO was not a gift, but the result of three main achievements: the determination to stay on the Euro-Atlantic course, the deep reforms for the democratic transformation of the country and the close strategic partnership with the USA.

Drawing attention especially to the stages of Albania's NATO membership process, and the commitment of Albanian governments over the years, former Foreign Minister Arta Dade stressed the great importance of this fact today in the context of aggression Russian in Ukraine.

The serious threat posed today by Russia's unjustifiable aggression against Ukraine has prompted countries such as Sweden and Finland to join NATO, while Albania is within this security perimeter, Minister Dade said.

Frank Shkreli, former director for Eurasia at the time in "Voice of America", described the wide echo of this visit in the American media and consequently the improvement of the image of Albania and Albanians.

He stressed that pro-Americanism among Albanians should be translated into commitment and embrace of the values represented by the United States, as the largest and strongest democracy in the world.

Former Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo Edita Tahiri, in her statement, said that for the irreversible path to independence it was vital to create strategic alliances, the preservation of which is just as troublesome and necessary. She underlined that the best service we can do to our countries is the strengthening of institutions, the rule of law and the development of the economy.

The same topic was also focused on Dr. Albert Rakipi, Chairman of the Albanian Institute for International Relations, who stressed that Albania's membership in NATO is the greatest achievement in 30 years, after the fall of the dictatorship.

As for Kosovo, he noted that President Bush announced from Tirana the end of the dangerous status quo, clearly deciding on independence, while the EU should do the same in terms of the dialogue taking place in Brussels.

While Avni Spahiu, former Kosovo's first ambassador to Washington, praised the consistent US policy with military intervention to end genocide, support for the declaration of independence and international recognition, and further with the extraordinary assistance of the US government for strengthening the state of Kosovo.

Ambassador Arben Cici shared moments of state protocol work in order to realize in the most perfect way the visit of the President. He recounted the exciting moments of President Bush in Fushë Krujë when he went outside the official protocol to meet the crowds of people who had come out to greet him.

Our former Ambassador to the UN Adrian Neritani also brought back memories of the positive response that this visit brought to the diplomatic circles there.

Ambassador Gashi shared with the participants the extraordinary echo that President Bush's visit to Tirana had in the Albanian diaspora. Mr. Gashi stressed the special importance of visits to the Albanian diaspora in the United States, as well as their extraordinary contribution, over the decades, through the pan-Albanian association Vatra and the Dielli newspaper, to strengthening the Albanian-American friendship.

Ambassador Gashi also brought back memories of the establishment of the international media accreditation center, under the special care of former Prime Minister Berisha. This center recorded 683 journalists and correspondents from all over the world who directly followed this historic visit.

CAA NOTES THAT SECRETARY STOLTENBERG'S MESSAGES ARE A CLEAR AND MEANINGFUL SIGNAL FOR ANYONE WHO INTENDS TO PROVOKE DESTABILIZING SCENARIOS FOR KOSOVO AND OUR REGION

Tirana, August 17, 2022

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors welcomes today's meetings between the Secretary General of NATO, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Albin Kurti and the President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Aleksander Vucic, prior to tomorrow's meeting with the EU.

CAA notes that Secretary Stoltenberg's messages are a clear and meaningful signal for anyone who intends to provoke destabilizing scenarios for Kosovo and our region.

CAA calls on the authorities of Kosovo and Serbia to renew their commitment in the framework of the dialogue, and to work decisively to reach a final agreement for the stabilization of political relations and mutual recognition between the two states, as the best premise for maintaining peace and security in the region and Europe.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors expresses its regret that the agreements reached so far between the two countries have not found the promised implementation, fueling the growth of mistrust and tensions against the purpose of this dialogue.

CAA emphasizes the importance of the revitalization of the dialogue that is taking place with the support of the EU and the US, and especially the willing commitment of both parties to reach a final agreement that would end the agony of insecurity and promote the progress of both countries and the entire region towards European integration.



CAA WELCOMES THE AGREEMENT REACHED TODAY ON THE ABOLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO ENTER BOTH COUNTRIES

Tirana, 27th August 2022

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors welcomes the agreement reached between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia, which is basically a commitment to implement the 2011 Agreement reached in Brussels, in line with the terms agreed by the parties at that time.

The withdrawal of Serbia from additional accompanying documents for the border crossing, and of Kosovo from the reciprocal response to this practice, is the best decision that serves the citizens of both countries.

This decision is also the best way to contribute to the normalization of relations between the two countries as well as to give real substance to the EU-mediated dialogue, with the support of the USA.

The commitments made by both countries in this dialogue must be fully, swiftly, and irreversibly implemented. The dialogue cannot and should not be turned into a refrigerating mechanism of the status quo, but serve as a mechanism that produces essential progress, in line with its purpose.

CAA welcomes the commitment of the EU and US special envoys, Lajcak and Escobar, High Representative Borrell, and Secretary General Stoltenberg, for deescalating the situation and returning both countries to the table of a meaningful dialogue.

CAA calls on the EU and the USA to continue their intensive commitment to reaching a full agreement between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia, which stabilizes political relations, includes mutual recognition between the two states, as well as their obligation and responsibility for the irreversible implementation of commitments made.



STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS ON THE DECISION OF ALBANIA'S GOVERNMENT TO END DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Tirana, 7th September 2022

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors supports the Decision of Albania's Government to end diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI), as a proportionate response to the cyberattack orchestrated and sponsored on a state level in order to:

"destroy the digital infrastructure of the Government of the Republic of Albania, paralyse public services, hack and steal the electronic data and communications of governmental systems".

Through this attack, the IRI has undermined every act and principle of international law that regulates relationships between two countries that have established diplomatic relations with one another. Moreover, the attack against another NATO Member State constitutes a serious threat to the whole Alliance, thus making the proportionate counter-response to the threat imposed indispensable.

On the other hand, CAA appeals to Albania's Government to urgently adopt the measures aimed at expanding and strengthening the defense capacities of its digital infrastructure, in the light of increased warnings by NATO and the EU on the multiplied potential of cyberattacks against their Member States and in the aftermath of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, in particular.

Likewise, the President of the Republic and Albania's Assembly should ensure the full-fledged supervision of the measures taken by the National Agency for Information Society, both prior to and after this cyberattack for the protection of the country's digital strategic infrastructure.

PROFESSOR DANIEL P. SERWER JOINS COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS

Tirana, September 14th 2022

Council of Albanian Ambassadors proudly announce Professor Daniel P. Serwer becoming a honorary member of our Council.

Professor Serwer is a supporter of the Albanian and Kosovo states as well as a strong voice in the USA foreign policy.

Professor Daniel Serwer is known in Albania and Kosova for his precious contribution provided as a powerful voice in defending human rights and freedoms, especially during the difficult years our nation went through, and also for being a supporter of Kosova's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He certainly has an important role and engagement towards further strengthening American-Albanian relations.



COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COUNCIL OF AMBASSADORS OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Tirana, 16 September 2022

The Managing Board of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors (CAA) received a Delegation of the Council of Ambassadors of North Macedonia (CANM), a counterpart Organization and an important partner in the region.

During this meeting, they exchanged valuable ideas and views on regional developments, the challenges of our two countries in their EU integration process and on common approaches of contribution through our expertise in these areas.

In this respect, we also shared the view that it is very important to establish contacts and an institutional cooperation with other counterpart Organizations in the region and beyond.

Another important issue during this encounter was the coordination of measures, in view of successfully organizing the visit of the Council of US Ambassadors next April in Albania, Kosova and in North Macedonia; it will be arranged by our Organizations.

We did also talk with particular emphasis on setting an institutional frame of cooperation to host events and implement projects in areas of mutual benefit for both our organizations and countries.

In this context, at the end of this meeting, the President of CAA, Mr. Besnik Mustafaj and the President of the CANM,

Mr. Muhamed Halili signed a Memorandum of Understanding between both Organizations; it will enable the strengthening of cooperation, with a view to share via joint events and projects the contribution for issues related to regional developments, the EU Integration, security, stability, consolidation of democracy and human rights in both countries.



THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS CONGRATULATES THE DELEGATION OF KOSOVO, PARTICIPATING IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Tirana, October 12th, 2022

Yesterday, Kosovo for the first time sat in the plenary hall of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where it had the right to speak.

Also, Kosovo will have three seats reserved for three members of its delegation in the PA of the Council of Europe.

On this occasion, KASH is pleased to congratulate the delegation of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo for the dignified presentation in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, one of the oldest and consolidated international institutions and an indomitable defender of democracy and human rights and of the highest European values and appreciates that this is a great achievement in the international arena of the independent and sovereign state of Kosovo.

Kosovo's membership with full rights in all international institutions will be the only way for peace, security and sustainable development in our region.



THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS CALLS ON THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT KOSOVO

Tirana, November 6th 2022

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors is following with concern the developments in the northern municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo, inhabited by the majority of the Serbian population.

The refusal to implement the legal orders of the governing structure of the Kosovo police, by the police superiors of the Serbian community in the north, is not only against the law, but provocative and dangerous. No country can have two parallel legal and institutional systems.

The Republic of Kosovo is a sovereign and democratic state, which offers incomparably high constitutional and legal guarantees for ethnic minorities.

The tension of the situation in the northern municipalities of the RKS and the aggravation of this tension by the structures that are managed by Belgrade, is a dangerous game. More so when this coincides with Putin's Russia's continued tendency to escalate the war of aggression in Ukraine.

KASH supports every action of the state of Kosovo to protect the democratic order and calls for a reduction in tensions.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors asks the Government of Republic of Albania to stand openly and actively in support of the legitimate right of the state of Kosovo to implement law and order throughout its territory. Albania has a constitutional, moral and national obligation to support the strengthening of the international position of the state of Kosovo, especially in regional initiatives, as well as its internal empowerment.

The Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Albania are committed to serving peace, stability, good neighborliness and Euro-Atlantic agendas in our region.

THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS HAS RECENTLY ADDED ON ITS HONORARY BOARD A NUMBER OF PROMINENT PERSONALITIES OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA

Tirana, November 21st 2022

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors has recently added on its Honorary Board a number of prominent personalities of the Albanian diaspora.



Mr. Lazim Destani, an Albanian successful businessman, a philanthropist, peace activist, humanist and a global citizen who has graciously accepted to serve on our Honorary Board and support our mission. Mr. Destani is well known for numerous valuable contributions in helping the Albanian cause

the world and stands out as a respectful individual in all business, philanthropic and patriotic activities and circles, by making a big difference in people's lives.



Professor. Lulzim Tafa, was born in 1970 in Lipjan. He completed his bachelor and master studies at the Faculty of Law of the University of Pristina, and his doctoral studies at the University of Sarajevo with a dissertation in the field of Law. He is a University Professor; he has worked in universities in Kosovo and abroad.

From 2012 to 2020 he served as the Rector of AAB College, where he currently holds the position of the Chairman of the Steering Council.



Mr. Harry Bajraktari, a native Albanian from NYC, is another addition to our board. He has put substantial efforts in establishing connections and friendships with top institutional leaders in the USA and has given valuable contributions to the democratization of Albania, the internationalization of the issue of Kosova, as well as

significant contributions made to its freedom, independence and later the international recognition of Kosova as a sovereign state.

Mr. Bajraktari is another true Albanian-American patriot who stands out for universal human rights values.



Dom David Xhuxha, Head of the Albanian section of Radio Vatican for Vatican News. He has been following and broadcasting the landmark developments in Albanian history, such as the fall of communism in Albania, the independence of Kosova, as well as other major developments in recent Albanian history. Dom Xhuxha is the author of "The Pope in Albania" a

publication which shed lights not only in the long history of suffering and survival of Albanian clerics, but also pays tribute to many Albanians who fought hard for Peace and Freedom. He was part of the delegations during the visits of two Popes in Albania.

They will serve on our Honorary Board along with former USA Ambassador Theodore R. Britton a Congressional Gold Medal recipient with a long connection and affection for Albanians.

Professor Daniel Serwer is a great supporter of Albanians and one of the architects of Dayton Peace accord, as well as a seasoned US former diplomat from Washington DC. The Council of Albanian Ambassadors has also the pleasure to announce a new addition to our General Assembly, the former Minister of European Integration, Ms. Klajda Gjoshja a successful women with a distinguished career. We strongly believe Ms. Gjoshja will be an added value to the completion of the Council' mission.

THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS AND THE PAN-ALBANIAN FEDERATION “VATRA” SIGNED A COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Tirana November 22, 2022



The Council of Albanian Ambassadors signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pan-Albanian Federation “Vatra”.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors signed today the Memorandum of Understanding with the Pan-Albanian Federation “Vatra”, to cooperate in the promotion of our national foreign policy.

The Vatra Pan-Albanian Federation has left notable marks in the history of Albania and further in the state building and democratization of Kosova, making a continuous contribution to its independence.

Through this memorandum, the Council of Albanian Ambassadors with rich diplomatic experience and wide reach in the region and the “Vatra” Federation pledge to cooperate in joint activities in accordance with our national foreign policy.

The “Vatra” Federation, as needed, will provide support to the Council of Albanian Ambassadors, with the aim of harmonizing foreign policy with the US Department of State and lobbying in favor of the all-Albanian issue.



THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS CONDEMNS THE CONFLICT-INCITING LANGUAGE OF SERBIAN PRESIDENT VUCIC

Tirana December 3, 2022

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors is following with great concern the recent statements inciting conflict and the use of derogatory language by the President of Serbia, Aleksandër Vučić, towards the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Mr. Albin Kurti, the newly appointed Minister for Communities and Returnees of the Government of Kosovo, Mr. Nenad Rasić, and his associates of the Serbian community who do not agree with the politics of Serbia.

Such declarations, reminiscent of the vocabulary of hatred and inciting war of the Milosevic regime against Albanians, harm the efforts of the international community for the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia, and consequently peace and security in the region.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors supports the actions of the Government of Kosovo to stabilize the situation and its commitment to a comprehensive agreement on the normalization of relations with Serbia, with the help of the European Union and the support of the USA.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors calls on the western international factor to step up its efforts to achieve as soon as possible the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia, as well as not to tolerate the destabilizing actions of Vučić, who has already made it clear that he has not given up pro-Russian orientation, with the appointment to the head of the intelligence service of Serbia (BIA) of the notorious chauvinist and anti-Albanian Aleksandar Vulin.


THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS CONDEMNS WITH THE GREATEST SEVERITY THE VIOLENT AND BRAZEN ACT AGAINST THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Tirana, December 6, 2022

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors condemns with the greatest severity the violent and brazen act against the leader of the opposition, Mr. Sali Berisha, former President and former Prime Minister of the country, during today's opposition protest.

The council calls on the state and government institutions, including the President of the Republic, not only to condemn the act and to seek its clarification, but first to condemn the language of hatred that high exponents of the government regularly use against the opposition, and especially the language used in the days preceding this ugly act, against the exercise of a legitimate and constitutional right, as was the popular protest of December 6.

The council also calls on the diplomatic corps to rise to the heights of the Albanian people's expectations and to condemn this language that incites hatred and division in the country.





THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS WELCOMES THE TIRANA SUMMIT OF DECEMBER 6 EU – WESTERN BALKANS

Tirana, on December 7, 2022

Yesterday, Albania hosted in Tirana the first Summit outside the European borders between the EU and the Western Balkans.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors believes that this Summit marks the first serious step towards the inclusion of the countries of the Western Balkans in the important European decision-making tables, where the discussion goes beyond our internal politics. The summit of December 6th, once again brought back to the agenda of the EU the special importance of keeping the doors of the European perspective open and the acceleration of the enlargement process with the countries of the region on the agenda of the highest institutions of the EU and the Member States.


The leaders of the EU gave some powerful messages at this Summit, where the unwavering support for the people of Ukraine and the imposition without any compromise by all members and candidate countries of the EU of sanctions against Russia stood out; also, increasing care and attention for countries with fragile democracies in the Western Balkans, to avoid any danger and threat to regional peace and security and beyond.

Also, the decisions of the Tirana Summit bring attention back to the following fundamental issues: Escalation of the economic and energy crisis, as a result of Russian aggression against Ukraine, and support for these vital sectors, such as families in need and infrastructure, is highly appreciated and welcomed.

The continuation of the implementation of joint projects in the framework of the Berlin Process, giving opportunities to young men and women in the Western Balkans to study in European Universities at lower fees is good news and promising for their integration into the values and European education.

Immigration and the fight against illegal asylum that is leading to the depopulation of the country is another issue of great importance, especially for countries like Albania; therefore, cooperation with the EU to adapt our legislation to its legislative corpus “Aquis Communautaire” and to benefit from the best European expertise has become more urgent than ever before.

Likewise, the alignment of the visa policy with that of the EU and especially the management of migration are a primary necessity, which require quick action plans and comprehensive reforms from the government and relevant authorities in our region.





In this regard, it would be very useful for the countries of the Western Balkans to increase cooperation with the EU to adapt the necessary legal framework for the seasonal employment of citizens. This would be one of the ways to discourage and reduce illegal immigration, influencing our citizens not to violate the rules of free movement.

In anticipation of more concrete discussions in the EU forums during the coming days, the Summit reconfirmed the support for the diplomatic efforts being made by the EU and the USA, for reaching the Final Agreement for the normalization of Serbia-Kosovo relations and the decision for the liberalization of visas with the Republic of Kosovo.

Furthermore, this Summit reaffirmed the comprehensive Berlin Process as a process fully supported by the EU, which together with the Western Balkans Regional Common Market cannot be replaced and compensated by any other initiative.

WORKING MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER OF KOSOVO, MR. ALBIN KURTI

Prishtina, 14 December 2022



A delegation from the Board of Directors of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors (CAA) was received today in a working meeting by Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Albin Kurti.

Prime Minister Kurti gave an overview on the tensed situation in Northern Kosovo caused by provocations by Serbia and its orchestrated illegal parallel structures, as well as on measures taken by his government to safeguard the state of the rule of law in this part of Kosovo.

The CAA delegation expressed its unsparing support for the Government of Kosovo and offered its assistance in meeting its current challenges for the normalization of the situation in Northern Kosovo. CAA holds that Kosovo is in its legitimate right to establish the rule of law throughout its own territory and defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors appeals to the whole political establishment in Kosovo to be unified in protecting the country's fundamental interests against ongoing provocations triggered from Serbia and in the continuation of negotiations for the normalization of relations with Serbia and, in particular, the EU and USA sponsored talks. Likewise, with Prime Minister Kurti was discussed on the opportunities of cooperation and coordination of initiatives and stances in support of the Euro- integrating process of the Republic of Kosovo.

In this context, the Council of Albanian Ambassadors expressed its great satisfaction and full-fledged support for today's Kosovo application for EU membership.

PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, RECEIVED IN A WORKING MEETING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS

Prishtina, 14 December 2022



During its stay in Pristina, the delegation of the Board of Directors of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors (CAA) was received in a Working Meeting by the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Glauk Konjufca.

During this very fruitful encounter they exchanged information and suggestions on the latest developments in Kosovo and in the region.

The meeting was focused on strengthening cooperation, in view of advancing the attainment of the EU integration objective for our countries and Albanian nation by and large.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors praised the democratic credentials of the Republic of Kosovo as an example for the whole region. In this context, they extended their appreciations for Kosovo's application for EU membership, as an historic and fully substantiated event, showing their full-fledged support for Kosovo in achieving the required European standards.

The members of the CAA delegation and the President of Kosovo Assembly emphasized the importance of concentrating all efforts to Kosovo – Serbia negotiations facilitated by the EU and the USA, against Belgrade efforts also through its tools in Northern Kosovo for the artificial escalation of tensions, aimed at blocking the negotiations for the normalization of relations and mutual recognition of both countries, which would serve the further consolidation of peace, security and economic prosperity for the entire region.

THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS WAS RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, H.E. MRS. VJOSA OSMANI SADRIU

Pristina, December 16, 2022



Following the official visit to Pristina, the delegation of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors (KASH) was received in a special working meeting by the President of the Republic of Kosovo, H.E. Mrs. Vjosa Osmani Sadriu.

During this meeting, opinions and evaluations were exchanged regarding the latest developments in Kosovo and in the region, as well as very valuable suggestions for the coordination of the efforts and initiatives, in order to resolve the situation created in the north of Kosovo, as well as of advancing the fulfillment of the European integration objectives of our countries.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors values the democratic credentials of the Republic of Kosovo, as an example for the entire region. In this context, Kosovo's application for membership in the European Union was evaluated as a historic well justified and fully supported by the achievements of the required European standards by the Republic of Kosovo. The members of KASH and President Osmani emphasized the importance of focusing all efforts towards the Kosovo-Serbia negotiations, mediated by the EU and the United States of America, despite the efforts of Belgrade, also through its tools in the north of Kosovo, to artificially escalated the tensions, in order to block the negotiations for the normalization and mutual recognition of the two countries, which would serve to further strengthen the peace, security and economic development of the entire region.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors believes that the unification of the Albanian political factor and the overcoming of political divisions to cope with the situation created with Serbia, are of fundamental national importance.

President Vjosa Osmani said that she follows with the greatest attention our activity and appreciated the role of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors in these delicate moments for Kosovo. She also asked for an even greater commitment to help with our experience and contacts, but also with geopolitical assessments, in support of Kosovo and its institutions.

**THE SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF NORTH
MACEDONIA HOSTED THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN
AMBASSADORS, AND OF THE COUNCIL OF
AMBASSADORS OF NORTH MACEDONIA**
Skopje, December 15th, 2022



The Speaker of the Parliament of North Macedonia, Mr. Talat Xhaferi hosted the representatives of the Board of Directors of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors, and of the Council of Ambassadors of North Macedonia, in a working meeting.

After the meeting, Mr. Talat Xhaferi declared:

Today I had the pleasure of welcoming the members of the Council of Ambassadors of North Macedonia and the Council of Albanian Ambassadors.

Both Councils of Ambassadors jointly expressed their will, desire and ideas on how they can be rewarded to the state for the trust given in the past, contributing with their personal professional experience, with the contacts and knowledge they have from experience of many years in local diplomacy in achieving peaceful solutions and cooperation in the region, facilitating the negotiation process towards achieving the common goals of the countries of the Western Balkans, respectively, full membership in the EU and NATO.

COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS MET WITH THE CHAIRMEN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS AND MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE PARLIAMENT OF KOSOVO

Pristina, December 17, 2022

Following the official visit to Pristina, the delegation of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors, held special working meetings with the Chairmen of the Parliamentary Groups and members of the opposition in the Parliament of Kosovo.

The Council's delegation was received by Mr. Arben Gashi, Chairman of the General Assembly of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), Mr. Abelard Tahiri, Chairman of the General Assembly of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) and Mr. Besnik Tahiri, Chairman of the General Assembly of the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK).

The chairmen of the PG of LDK, PDK and AAK in these meetings were also accompanied by the deputies of the respective parties, members and chairs of the Foreign Affairs Committee, European Integrations and the Security Committee of the Parliament of Kosovo.

During these meetings, opinions and evaluations were exchanged regarding the latest developments in Kosovo and the region.

The parties presented ideas and suggestions for the coordination of efforts and initiatives, in order to solve the situation created in the north of Kosovo, as well as to advance the fulfillment of the European integration objectives of our countries.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors appreciated the development of internal democratic processes in the Republic of Kosovo, as an example for the entire region and highly appreciated how the elections and the democratic process are conducted, as well as the respect and non-disputing of their results by the citizens, but also by all the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo.

In this context, Kosovo's application for membership in the European Union was evaluated as a historic event, as well as well deserved and fully supported by the achievements of the required European standards by the Republic of Kosovo.



The members of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors delegation, in conversation with the chairmen and members of the GP of LDK, PDK and AAK, emphasized the importance of concentrating all efforts towards the Kosovo-Serbia negotiations, mediated by the EU and the United States of America, despite the efforts of Belgrade and its tools in the north of Kosovo, to artificially escalate tensions, in order to block the negotiations for the normalization and mutual recognition of the two countries, which would serve to further strengthen peace, security, stability and development of the whole region.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors believes that the unification of the Albanian political factor and the overcoming of the current political divisions, in order to cope with the situation created with Serbia, are of fundamental national importance.

During the conversation of the Council's delegation with the heads of the PG of the Parliament of Kosovo, the irreplaceable role of Parliamentary Diplomacy was discussed, as a good instrument for direct communication and showing the truth about Kosovo and the developments around it.

The chairmen of the PG of the oppositions expressed that they closely follow our activities and appreciated the role of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors in these difficult moments for Kosovo. They also expressed their readiness and full commitment for coordination and cooperation between the Parliamentary Groups and Council of Albanian Ambassadors.

The voice of the highly respected members of Council of Albanian Ambassadors, was emphasized by some of the interlocutors, members of the Parliament of Kosovo, should be stronger and present for all developments in our territories, as it carries an irreplaceable professional experience.

Council of Albanian Ambassadors, expressed that it is ready to help with all its capacities, both with experience and diplomatic and their contacts wherever possible, but also with geopolitical assessments, in support of Kosovo's membership in organizations various international ones, as well as with the engagement with the ties that KAS has in the non-recognizing states of Kosovo.



STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS ON THE STATE OF THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

Tirana, December 21, 2022



The Council of Albanian Ambassadors expresses deep concern over the unprecedented situation created in the Albanian diplomatic service, seriously damaging the image of the country and serving the state interests of the Republic of Albania.

Most of the Albanian Ambassadors accredited to foreign countries have entered or are at the end of their third diplomatic mandate in the same country.

Almost all Albanian Ambassadors have exceeded the three-year term of service, as stipulated by the law on foreign service 23/2015.

After the change of law which reduced the term of office of diplomats abroad from 4 to 3 years, inexplicably and unreasonably, a very high number of diplomats have not only exceeded this time limit, but are already in their third mandate. A large number of them have long passed their retirement years. This unjustified behavior of the Albanian government damages the image of Albanian diplomats, as it not only violates the law and international diplomatic practice, but also places them in undeserved, derogatory positions in relation to their colleagues and the decision-making centers of diplomacy.

In international practice, the duration of the diplomatic mandate is considered very important, in order to avoid the familiarization of diplomats in the countries where they serve, to streamline diplomatic activity and contacts, but also to maintain a fair ratio of service time abroad and within the country.

Exceptions to this consolidated world practice are made only by a few countries, and are very limited. In any case, this practice does not happen in any NATO member country!

What has been happening for some time with Albanian diplomacy, either in relation to the extreme exceeding of the mandate, either with recruitment outside the system, or with the representation of party interests more than state interests by Albanian diplomats, is unacceptable and reprehensible.

The CAA calls on the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Government, the Foreign Committee of the Assembly and the President of the Republic to urgently reflect on this irresponsible behavior towards the Albanian diplomatic service.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors stands in solidarity with all excellent career diplomats, including those who have been undeservedly discriminated against and harmed in their careers, even though they have served their country with integrity and dedication over the years.

**THE COUNCIL OF THE ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS
SENDS AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES
JOSEPH R. BIDEN**

Tirana, December 26th 2022

***The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States***

***The White House
Washington, DC 20500***

***For the attention of:
Anthony J. Blinken
Secretary of State,***



Honorable Mr. President,

The Council of the Albanian Ambassadors would like to use this opportunity to thank you and the United States of America for your continued support for Albania and the Republic of Kosovo.

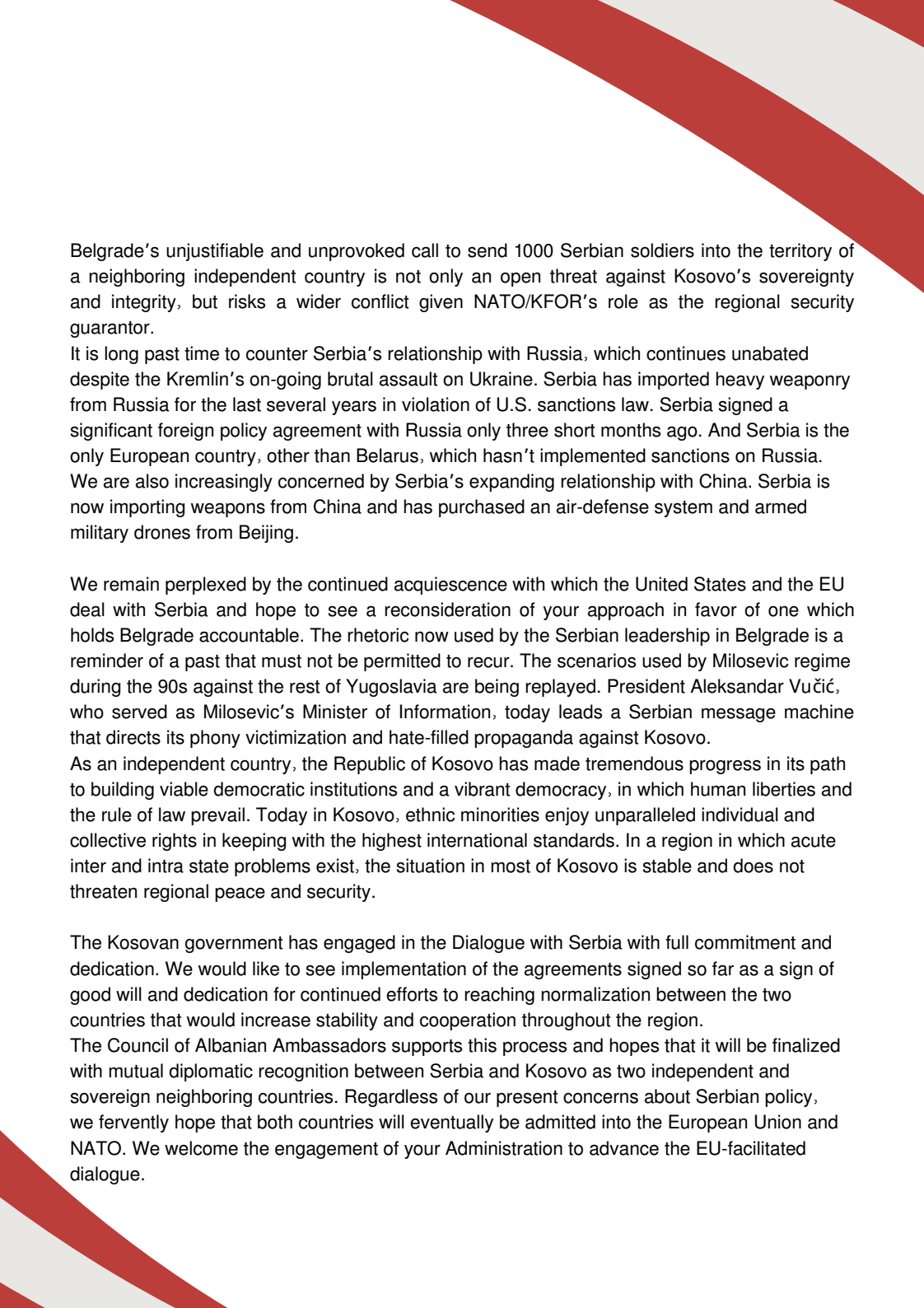
We are however concerned about recent developments that threaten Kosovo in particular. The Republic of Kosovo aims to be an example of democracy and human rights protection in the Western Balkans and a provider of peace, security and stability in the region. These objectives and peace in the region are, however, still under threat. We are deeply concerned and apprehensive about the deteriorating situation in the north of Kosovo as a serious threat to peace and stability in the entire region.

Life has been paralyzed and the free movement of people curtailed by blockades set on the main roads of the north linking Kosovo and Serbia. People living in the mainly Serb populated north are facing hardship under an atmosphere of permanent intimidation and threats coming from criminal groups operating with the backing of Belgrade.

Despite efforts by the Government of Kosovo to defuse the situation and ease tensions, life in that part of Kosovo continues to be dangerous and uncertain. Those stoking the crisis inside of Kosovo are aided and abetted by the Serbian government. This constitutes a serious threat to Kosovo's sovereignty and statehood, as well as regional peace and stability.

Serbia has been engaged in a constant hybrid war against Kosovo and its institutions while the young country has been trying to consolidate the rule of law in its northern municipalities.

Furthermore, Serbia has been acting as a proxy for Russia in our region. Serbian leadership is working from the same playbook that Russia used prior to launch its invasion against the independent and sovereign country of Ukraine in 2014. This hybrid destabilization campaign is directed against the independence, democracy, and open nature of Kosovo and against peace and security in the region.



Belgrade's unjustifiable and unprovoked call to send 1000 Serbian soldiers into the territory of a neighboring independent country is not only an open threat against Kosovo's sovereignty and integrity, but risks a wider conflict given NATO/KFOR's role as the regional security guarantor.

It is long past time to counter Serbia's relationship with Russia, which continues unabated despite the Kremlin's on-going brutal assault on Ukraine. Serbia has imported heavy weaponry from Russia for the last several years in violation of U.S. sanctions law. Serbia signed a significant foreign policy agreement with Russia only three short months ago. And Serbia is the only European country, other than Belarus, which hasn't implemented sanctions on Russia. We are also increasingly concerned by Serbia's expanding relationship with China. Serbia is now importing weapons from China and has purchased an air-defense system and armed military drones from Beijing.

We remain perplexed by the continued acquiescence with which the United States and the EU deal with Serbia and hope to see a reconsideration of your approach in favor of one which holds Belgrade accountable. The rhetoric now used by the Serbian leadership in Belgrade is a reminder of a past that must not be permitted to recur. The scenarios used by Milosevic regime during the 90s against the rest of Yugoslavia are being replayed. President Aleksandar Vučić, who served as Milosevic's Minister of Information, today leads a Serbian message machine that directs its phony victimization and hate-filled propaganda against Kosovo.

As an independent country, the Republic of Kosovo has made tremendous progress in its path to building viable democratic institutions and a vibrant democracy, in which human liberties and the rule of law prevail. Today in Kosovo, ethnic minorities enjoy unparalleled individual and collective rights in keeping with the highest international standards. In a region in which acute inter and intra state problems exist, the situation in most of Kosovo is stable and does not threaten regional peace and security.

The Kosovan government has engaged in the Dialogue with Serbia with full commitment and dedication. We would like to see implementation of the agreements signed so far as a sign of good will and dedication for continued efforts to reaching normalization between the two countries that would increase stability and cooperation throughout the region.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors supports this process and hopes that it will be finalized with mutual diplomatic recognition between Serbia and Kosovo as two independent and sovereign neighboring countries. Regardless of our present concerns about Serbian policy, we fervently hope that both countries will eventually be admitted into the European Union and NATO. We welcome the engagement of your Administration to advance the EU-facilitated dialogue.

We firmly believe that the outcome of the EU-facilitated dialogue should comply with the agreed principles for the settlement of the final status of Kosovo, as enshrined in the documents of the Contact Group that monitored and supervised international policy in Kosovo, as well as the Comprehensive Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement, also known as “the Ahtisaari Plan.”

Those guiding principles provide for the territorial integrity of the Republic of Kosovo within its internationally recognized borders and preservation of the multi-ethnic character of the state. Approaches based on the notion of re-drawing or shifting borderlines along ethnic lines have the potential to undermine the stability of Kosovo and other multi-ethnic countries throughout the world.

That is why, Mr. President, we are asking for your attention to the developing situation, in order to create a safe environment by pressing Serbia and its allies in northern Kosovo to remove all the obstacles and blockades, and allow a fast return to normal conditions that would facilitate progress in the EU-facilitated Dialogue.

Please, Mr. President, accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Respectfully,
Council of Albanian Ambassadors



OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Tirana, December 26th 2022

Open letter to Members of the European Council

For the attention of: Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors is following with great concern the situation in the north of Kosovo, escalating with Kosovo Serbs withdrawing from Kosovo institutions, erected barricades and resort to violence from criminal gangs carrying forward a political agenda of destabilization, backed by Serbia's President Alexander Vucic.

These moments require lucidity of judgement and determination of action from NATO, EU and US, well ahead of a conflict break-out with uncontrollable repercussions.

It is worth recalling that Kosovo was the last country of the region to suffer from genocide and ethnic cleansing from Miloshevic's regime, which led to NATO's military intervention. Since then, a number of peace negotiations ended with Kosovo's unilateral endorsement of the international proposals, including the Ahtisaary package, whose principles are enshrined in Kosovo's constitution and governance.

Kosovo's independence was both a sui generis case and a success story of a shared investment of its people and the unwavering Trans-Atlantic and European political resolve.

Kosovo is now a frontrunner of democracy, rule of law and human rights defender, leaving behind any of the other 5 countries of the region. International reports rank EU-aligned Kosovo in the lead with substantial progress in all performance indicators.

The EU-facilitated dialogue launched in 2011 aimed at normalizing relations between Serbia and Kosovo was able to generate important agreements, with the Brussels 2013 Agreement being the most comprehensive one. EU leverage proved to be strong and effective, serving to an era of peace, stability and cooperation between the two countries as well as in the region at large.

Regrettably those moments of optimism and commitment are bygone, once EU's approach in the region reverted to contradicting policies, notwithstanding their incompatibility with European project and its values.

So much so, that some European leaders did not refrain even from unilaterally undermining the very founding principle of the European Union by endorsing territorial exchange scenarios, opening the Pandora's box of the mono-ethnic appetites in the region.

It is unfortunate that some European leaders have sleepwalked at President Vucic's nostalgia of Miloshevic's policies, echoing in more than a 2018 provocative speech or glorification of convicted war criminals. Meanwhile, Serbia has continued to strengthen its ties to Russia, employing the same conflict-inciting propaganda, advanced with heavy weaponry imports, joint military drills, bilateral agreements of foreign policy alignment, and refusing to implement sanctions, against all EU expectations and policy. President Vucic went as far as to call for sending 1000 Serbian troops into Kosovo, openly challenging not only Kosovo but also European and Trans-Atlantic allies.

While the EU has been aptly alert of probable spill-over effects of Russia's aggression against sovereign and democratic Ukraine, it inexcusably continues its appeasement policy vis-à-vis Russia's proxies in the Western Balkan region, as if nothing has changed since February of this year.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors strongly believes it is high time the EU recognizes reality as it is, with Kosovo being genuinely anchored in its European path, committed towards peace, stability and prosperity, unlike Serbia which has chosen to wear Russia's hat, engaged, but not limited to, waging a hybrid war against Kosovo, its legitimate democratic institutions and territorial integrity.

Opting for over-pressuring Kosovo instead drawing a red line to Russian-sponsored destabilizing scenarios, suggests the worst possible message at the expense of jeopardizing the visionary political investment of Western allies not only in Kosovo, but also in the region. CAA believes that the dialogue mechanism remains the best option for both Kosovo and Serbia to finally and resolutely start a new chapter in their bilateral relations. In this context, the Council calls on the EU to engage resolutely and without delay in countering Serbia's destabilizing efforts, and to lead the negotiations remaining faithful to European principles and values. We call as well as on both countries, Serbia and Kosovo to honor hitherto agreed commitments in good faith, in a spirit of good neighborly relations, and the European perspective of our region.

EU accession remains the best peace and prosperity blueprint for our region, and the Council of Albanian Ambassadors remains hopeful that each of the 6 countries will join the European family based on the merits of their individual processes, free from any other third-party influence undermining this strategic project.

Respectfully,

Council of Albanian Ambassadors



POLITICAL & DIPLOMATIC HIGHLIGHTS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR 2022

Tirana, 18 January 2023

The year 2022 was loaded much more than its antecedent with major and epochal worldwide events in all areas, affecting Europe and our region. Undoubtedly, the prevailing highlight is the Russian aggression against Ukraine, together with multiple acts, actions and decisions by the largest world, European and regional political & diplomatic headquarters.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors (CAA) has followed these events attentively and with special interest. It has issued statements for each of these developments, by organizing and attending numerous events; it has also made official visits to USA, Pristina, Skopje and elsewhere; it has hosted meetings in various formats with most of foreign Ambassadors accredited in Albania; it has also signed Memoranda of Understanding with its US, Italian, North Macedonia and Kosovo counterparts as well as with other diplomatic and security organizations in Slovenia, Kosovo, Bosnia - Hercegovina, making also efforts to extend this cooperation to other states.

On this basis, we are briefly dwelling below on the major international events and highlights with some “flash” insights on their effects and outcome, laying the emphasis on our region and Albania, in particular. Given their large number, to facilitate the readers’ job and avoid the repetition of issues, except for Albania where we shall stop particularly by the end of this analysis, the events are presented together, in their natural dependency and relevance.

On 24 February 2022 Russia launched its wide – scale military aggression against Ukraine, its southern neighbor, as a continuation of its attack and annexation of Crimea and its Eastern side in 2014. Russian President signed treaties that include the occupied regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporozhe into the Russian Federation.





This aggression with Ukraine's occupation as its target, the largest armed conflict in Europa after the end of World War II has produced incalculable human, material and financial damages and effects; apart from thousands of civil and military victims, over 15.7 million of Ukrainians have been displaced (8 Million within the country and 7.7 million as refugees). According to the preliminary data, the material damages in the Ukrainian infrastructure are estimated to 300 billion Euro but they may be much larger; its GDP has fallen 45 per cent. It has also led to international sanctions and condemnations, nuclear threats, withdrawal of hundreds of investing companies from Russia and its ban from major political, economic, cultural and sport events.

There is a wide – reaching international consensus, including Russia's allies that the latter launched an unjustified and unprovoked aggression and war against a neighboring state, which aspires the Euro – Atlantic integration; the latter goal is a sovereign decision by Ukraine itself and the relevant organizations.

As to the alleged NATO threat, it is common knowledge that NATO is a political-military alliance with a defensive character and never in its 73 year old history has it threatened, alluded or attacked any other state. Moreover, NATO and Russia have had military cooperation and even a Joint Committee, entrusted with treating and settling peacefully the arising problems and disagreements.


It is also widely accepted that by attacking militarily Ukraine, Russia wanted to teach a lesson and send intimidation messages to the western political, military and economic Alliance and with the goal to split it from within.


The Russian aggression provoked a true tsunami, shaking from its very foundations the World Order, the international law and relations. Besides seriously impairing the territorial integrity and sovereignty of an independent state, member of the UN, OSCE, the Council of Europe and others, Russia has put at stake peace, order, security and stability all over Europe and beyond.

Because the aggressor this time is a huge state, with a considerable military and economic might, member of the UN Permanent Security Council, one of the largest world producers and exporters of crude oil, gas, grains and other products.

This aggression endangers seriously the return to the notorious Cold War period. Regretfully, the Russian leaders ignored all appeals and demarches by western top leaders; instead of diplomatic channels, they spoke with the tongue of force, tanks, missiles and nuclear intimidation. However, Russia failed in its goal for a rapid victory; actually, it has failed in all aspects – military, political, economic and security.

The Ukrainian people, army and its political leadership, thanks to their heroic resistance and the vigorous western support are winning over in the military fronts as well.





Russia has also lost immensely in the diplomatic area and in its international image. UN has condemned this aggression with a series of resolutions, going that far as to demand its prosecution for genocide and war crimes; the prevailing part of UN Member States have imposed hard economic sanctions against Russia; even China, Russia's ally has opposed the Russian nuclear war threats and its Ukrainian annexation.

Russia and Putin have made wrong political and military calculations; unlike what Putin hoped for the split in the West, the USA, Europe, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand put aside their previous disagreements and united into a solid political and military cohesion, similar only to their alliance during World War II.

There can hardly be any serious forum or international organization that has not condemned this aggression and has not expressed its solidarity with Ukraine. G – 7, G-20, IMF and the World Bank in their summits during 2022 imposed hard economic sanctions against Russia.


Meanwhile, they have pledged dozens of billions of Euro as multifaceted aids for Ukraine to make up for the negative energy and food crisis effects.

Certainly, the USA is rendering the largest contribution in this respect; they have pledged over 52 billion of financial aids, apart from other several food, military and technical assistance.

Likewise, besides bilateral aids from its Member States, the EU pledged 38 billion Euro financial aids and adopted 9 packages of hard economic sanctions against Russia, i.e. one for each month.

The Russian aggression changed the entire planetary geopolitical trend, the programs, strategies and forums of each state and international organization; accordingly, they reviewed their relevant agendas for a better response to the war dynamics in Ukraine and to the great challenges that the Russian aggression has posed. Likewise, the political, diplomatic, economic and military operations have undergone a fundamental change.

In this context, the West is going through a comprehensive analysis on its doctrines and schools of political and economic thought and action. The war in Ukraine put an end to the speculations on the naive globalism, according to which disaccords and even violent conflicts could be appeased and put on the course of settlement through economic and trade cooperation, or “change through trade”, benefiting from the free Russian and Chinese tariffs, especially in the cases of gas, crude oil and energy. Now, it is the political aspect, reliability and guarantees that stand on the top of priorities also in this field, reducing to a considerable extent economic cooperation with authoritarian states.



Nonetheless, EU Member States, as Germany, Italy, Austria, Hungary and others, despite instant measures in these areas will continue to suffer for years from the effects of their policies of gas and energy dependency from Russia and China. Thus, the EU to date has satisfied as much as 40% of its gas and energy needs from Russia, whereas Germany and others countries even more. Naturally, NATO has been and remains at the head of the military efforts and measures to successfully cope with the Russian aggression.

Here it should be emphasized the Summit in Madrid on 29 – 30 June, which defined its New Security Strategy 2030, with particular emphasis on the attitude towards Russia and China, now considered as threatening rivals. The new Strategy reflects the epochal changes in its Member States in the defense and security area.

Thus, on 27 February Germany announced the “Zeitenwende”, i.e. the historic change in its defense and security strategy; it includes the special guarantee defense fund of 100 billion Euro, or twice as big as the previous one, providing over 2 per cent of its GDP for NATO, delivery of armaments and military equipment for Ukraine, which was previously banned, due to the traditional German pacifism and so on.



Meanwhile, NATO is making all precautions to increase and modernize its military defense capacities in the former Central and Eastern Europe, establishing and dislocating military units and high alert commands in the border with Russia, the cyber sophistication and others. It will also increase the number of its troops and its presence in the various military exercises in Eastern Europe, which does also include our country. Another highlight was the not- easy- to - reach consensus due to the Turkish opposition of NATO membership for Sweden and Finland.

Together with NATO, the EU is also strongly committed to all these areas; it decided on 17 June to offer the candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova, a geopolitical response and a political & moral support for Ukraine and other states threatened by Russia.

The EU made a comprehensive revision of its foreign policy and security, it has imposed sanctions against Russia, spearheaded against its political and economic pillars that support its war machine and to keep alive the anti-European and anti-western propaganda. The EU did also agree on some support packages for Ukraine, plus multiple efforts to establish the necessary domestic consensus, for a united and invincible front against Russian aggression.

The French President Macron proposed the founding of a new European Political Community (EPC) aimed at expanding the format of the dialogue with the states involved in its program of good-neighborly and in the Enlargement Package, as a political space sharing common goals for peace, stability and promotion of liberal democracy.

Both President Macron and the European Council dispersed through a direct response the reasonable suspicions that this Community could alienate the EU Enlargement agenda; he emphasized that there would be no change in the enlargement process and that the relevant negotiations would continue on the basis of reform implementation.

Albania and Northern Macedonia move ahead by opening accession negotiations.

On 18 July 2022, the EU decided to open the accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia, by adopting the Negotiation Frame for each of the two. This decision postponed in time, was taken after hard negotiations between Bulgaria and North Macedonia, following some hard disagreements due to Bulgaria's claims on some of its elements on the identity, language and history.

As of July 2022 the Negotiation Frame has become effective, a sort of roadmap for Albania's accession negotiations, including the major guiding principles, procedures and conditions through which this process goes through. As of September, Albania is subject to the legislation scanning process, and when that is over, a full and detailed balance – sheet would follow on the number of laws fully and partially aligned and those that will need to be aligned with the EU Acquis until the moment of accession.



As specified in this Frame, the start of the negotiations for the first cluster of chapters out of 6 clusters all together will depend on the fulfilment of the opening benchmarks. Likewise, the first cluster will be the first to open and the last to be closed. It means that Albania should attach absolute priority to this cluster of chapters and show ongoing progress if it wishes that the accession process moves rapidly on.

The opening of negotiations is an historic opportunity for Albania to regain the lost time, now that their progress would be related to no other country in the region, but exclusively on the task performance and domestic reform implementation.


Another important moment in the relations with the EU is the serious warning by the EU Commission for the possible re-introduction of the visa regime with Albania, as reflected in the Report for the Visa Suspension Mechanism of 6 December.

Albania has to refrain itself from the adoption of “citizenship for foreign investors”, it should align its visa policy with that of the EU and take all measures to refrain illicit migration and Albanian asylum seekers as soon as possible. The warning by the EU Commission to penalize Albania in case of not retreating from the enactment of this law is very serious, especially given a previous demand filed by the Netherlands for visa suspension.



The political dialogue among the Western Balkan countries and the EU has witnessed intensive developments during 2022 with two special EU – Western Balkan Summits in June and in December 2022. Tirana hosted for the first time the Summit EU- Western Balkans on 6 December, the first to be held outside EU Member States.

This Summit gave a clear message by choosing Albania, as the country which has marked progress with the opening of negotiations, with the largest pro-European support and that has fully aligned its policy of sanctions against Russia in the context of the continuation of war in Ukraine.



At the end of this Summit, a large number of common actions were undertaken by the countries in the region and the EU, although the 32 Point Declaration did not have Serbia's consensus.

During this year, Tirana was also visited by a large number of top European leaders – President of the EU Council, Charles Michel, and President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen, the German President and Chancellor, the Italian President, the Prime Ministers of Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and others.

During their encounters with Albanian counterparts, clear and direct support messages for Albania and its Euro-Atlantic prospect were extended, including the alignment of its foreign and security policy with that of the EU. Besides, these tours and summits were coupled with significant political processes with our region at the focus of their attention.

On 3 November, the Summit of Berlin Process took place in Berlin, with the attendance of the 6 leaders of our region, as well as from 10 EU Member States, Mme Von der Leyen and Mr. Charles Michel. In this context, three important agreements were signed related to the Regional Common Market, recognition of diplomas & professional vocation and roaming tariffs.


In November, the EU Parliament adopted a Resolution in the framework of the Enlargement Package for Western Balkan states, supporting the EU prospects for its six states. Specific elements in this Resolution were the demand on Serbia to join the EU in its sanctions against Russia, its clear separation from double-standard attitudes and objection to “Open Balkans”, as an initiative that does not serve the regional all-inclusive approach, since three states do not participate there.

Furthermore, “Open Balkans” continues to be a case of grievances in the region, whereby Kosovo is also joined in its refusal by the Montenegrin and Macedonian Presidents as well as some leaders in Bosnia – Hercegovina, showing in this way an asymmetry of attitudes within each country by and large.

The EU, in close cooperation with the USA is intensifying its efforts for stability on Bosnia-Herzegovina, against splitting attempts by the pro- Serbian nationalists of Dodik and to bring it closer to the EU. In December, the EU Council decided to offer it the “Candidate” status.

Then, on 14 December, the EU Council at last decided on the visa liberalization with Kosovo, not later than the 1st of January 2024. Meanwhile, on 15 December, Kosovo submitted to the Czech EU Presidency in Prague its formal application for EU membership. A clear message of its Euro-Atlantic track.

In Podgorica, the coalition government of the outgoing Prime Minister Dritan Abazovic fell after a motion of confidence by the Parliament in August, following political grudges within the coalition on a controversial agreement that the government signed with the Serbian Orthodox Church. A few months ago, its Parliament enacted a law that reduces the presidential powers, which triggered and added to opposition tensions and manifestations.




Thus, a political and institutional crisis was provoked, with serious consequences for the country's security, stability and its European prospects. Actually, there are several confrontations there between the pro-Euro – Atlantic and pro-Serbian forces. The only remaining alternative now is the early parliamentary elections, objected by the pro-Serbian forces, which are in favor of establishing a new governmental coalition without the support of the party of the President of Montenegro and the postponing elections in 2024.

The Dialogue Pristina – Belgrade remains the most fragile, delayed and difficult process for regional peace and security and on a wider scale. Unfortunately, this is the bitter reality of such dialogue 11 years after its launch. With glamour, fuss, promises, oaths, but the political outcome is almost nil! It is proceeding with very slow rates, accompanied with Serbian provocations, inventing problems and then trying to solve them! Par consequence, doubts, skepticism and pessimism persist. Neither has the Franco-German, or alias European model add to hopefulness and chances for success, largely due to the Serbian refractory policies and attitudes.



Although, after the “ long honey moon period” with the EU and the USA, Belgrade is now urged with the pressing demand to be seriously committed to the dialogue with Kosovo; not any more with controversial statements and vows, but with concrete commitment to the undelay recognition of Kosovo's state, ending the campaign for de-recognitions and hindrances to its membership to international organizations, with clear – cut stances on Russia, full-fledged alignment with the EU foreign policy and particularly in its sanctions and finally preventing illicit migration through the “Balkan route” .



The Euro-Atlantic bells are ringing loudly for Belgrade, so that it would finally define clearly its strategic line, i.e. with the East or the West, with the EU and USA or with Russia and China.

Despite the deep appreciation for the current US and EU demarches, there is a wide – spread opinion that it is political naiveties to trust on the success of this dialogue, which is taking place in a poisoned climate, environment and atmosphere. Accordingly, even any promise or pledge is rapidly washed away, making way to violence, tensed situations and threats for armed conflicts, as it occurred most recently in Northern part of Kosovo. However, “disinfecting and demining” this climate and environment, in order to finally have the minimum understanding requires political will, energy and diplomatic efforts; the latter take a lot of time and patience which seemingly are exhausted.


Unfortunately, due to indeed “historic delays”, even the EU and NATO Membership, which until recently seemed to be the magic key to progress, cooperation and reconciliation in the Balkans has lost their attraction and inspiration. Well, the EU has its own part of blame in this respect, for having pursued strategies and actions much more relevant to stability but to the detriment of democracy and also by treating Serbia much more favorably.

The Summit EU – Western Balkans in Tirana on 6 December, the first in the region and in Tirana was very important and symbolic for the region and Albania, in particular; 36 EU Presidents and Prime Ministers “ landed” led by the Presidents of the EU Commission and Council and the 6 regional leaders landed in Tirana.

As it was underlined in the Council of Albanian Ambassadors relevant statement, this Summit marked the first serious step of inviting the Western Balkan countries in important European decision- making tables, where the discussion exceeds our domestic politics. It evoked the special significance of keeping the doors open for the European prospect and for speeding up the Enlargement Process with Western Balkan states.

The EU leaders sent a series of telling messages during this Summit, highlighting the unreserved support for the Ukrainian people and the escalation of sanctions against Russia; likewise, they increased the attention and solicitude for countries with fragile democracy in Western Balkans to avoid any danger and threat to peace, regional security and in other areas.

The decisions of Tirana Summit did also return the attention to the escalation of economic and energy crisis, as an outcome of Russian aggression against Ukraine and support for these vital sectors.



The continued implementation of joint projects in the framework of Berlin Process, offering opportunities to the youth in Western Balkans to pursue studies at European universities with lower tariffs was another promising news for their integration into the European education and values.

Emigration and combatting illicit asylum which are causing depopulation is another issue of great significance, especially for states like Albania; therefore, the cooperation with the EU to align our legislation to that of EU “Acquis Communautaire” and to benefit from the best European expertise has become more than ever a “Must”!

Likewise, our alignment with the EU visa policy and particularly, the management of migration are a priority necessity, since they require rapid action plans and comprehensive reforms, both by the government and the relevant authorities. Then, the Summit reconfirmed the support for the EU and US diplomatic efforts in view of reaching a final agreement on the normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo and the visa liberalization for the latter.

Furthermore, the Summit reconfirmed the all-inclusive Berlin Process, as entirely EU supported, which cannot be replaced or overshadowed by any other initiative.

During 2022, important parliamentary and presidential elections were held in France, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Bulgaria and the mid-term elections in USA, with great surprises and unexpected results.

In the mid – term elections in USA on 8 November, the Republicans retook the Congress but with a very slim difference, whereas the Democrats won the Senate with a single vote difference only. Former President Trump and republicans failed to score their claimed glamorous victory or the “ red wave” However, the job becomes more difficult for the democrats and President Biden with regard to the implementation of major reforms, which requires a large majority in the Congress.



In France, President Macron won the second term, but by losing the absolute majority in both chambers, which weakens his power and ability to apply important reforms at home and particularly abroad, in the fields of EU and NATO reforms and in other areas. His success during this term would be decisive to avoid the strengthening of the far right of Le Pen.

In the early parliamentary elections in Italy on 25 September, Georgia MELONI, the charismatic 45 year leader of "Fratelli d'Italia" scored a sounding victory that marked an historic turning point in the Italian and European political landscape. For the first time after 1945, a coalition of the right and far right won a shining victory there led by this post-fascist party, with the participation of "Lega" of Matteo Salvini and "Forza Italia" of Silvio Berlusconi. "Italy's Brothers" gained 25.5 per cent of the ballots, from only 4 per cent in 2018, winning the absolute majority in both chambers. Meloni will be the first Italian woman ever at the head of the Italian government.

However, unlike the prejudicing rhetoric, Meloni has made some good steps for the approachment and reconciliation with the EU and NATO, which she showed also during her first visit in Brussels, instantly after her landslide victory.

In Denmark, the socialist leader Mrs. Frederiksen won again and established a coalition with two liberal parties.

The biggest surprise occurred in Sweden. For the first time there it was a far right party that won, which however is "suffering a lot" to form a coalition government.

In Bulgaria, yet no party is succeeding to form a government, a failure which could lead to new early elections, the fifth within the last two years.

The scandal of corruption, money laundering and criminal activity in the heart of Brussels, in the EU Parliament, with one of its Vice Presidents, Mrs. Eva Kaili as its protagonist and other high level associates shook the highest EU institutions and its credibility. The inquiries continue and it is widely thought that this is only the "tip of the iceberg".



This scandal brought to light several commissions and commissions in the EU Parliament concerning the lack of control and implementation of rules to avoid corruption and criminal activity related to lobbying amidst the Euro parliamentarians. Now, as it is strongly demanded, wide – reaching reforms are starting in all respects, especially in that of managing and checking lobbying in the EU.

In the area of climate, environmental protection and combatting global warming, the most important event of the year was the Climate Summit COP 27 in Charm el Sheikh in Egypt on 17 – 28 November, with the presence of 30.000 experts, senior officials, ministers, Heads of States and Government from 140 countries. The most important decision reached through a broad consensus, although without specifying the necessary technical details was on a large fund to cover the costs & damages caused by global warming. Albeit that, there are many disappointments from COP 27, since almost nothing was done on the other important issues, especially for alternative energy, several expectations to avoid global warming with 1,5 grade Celsius and the reduction of carbonic gas emissions.



ALBANIA

Apart from the above-mentioned, the election for the first time ever as a UN Non – Permanent Member of the Security Council (2022 – 2023) was a remarkable diplomatic achievement for Albania. It is the product of numerous efforts and diplomatic efforts, both in the bilateral and multilateral respect during the last two decades. It is undoubtedly an achievement with a significant geo-political impact, for it makes our country widely known in the international arena.

This membership, our Presidency in June 2022 and in September 2023 are also testimonies of the diplomatic capacities we have produced in the last 30 years.


The significance of this membership grew up further after the Russian aggression to Ukraine, due to all these facts, as well as the political, diplomatic, military and economic actions undertaken on a global, European and regional scale, including the important resolutions condemning Russian aggression, as a flagrant violation of international law. This responsibility in the field of international relations and the partnership with the USA was confirmed and strengthened further, including the co-penmanship with USA for the Ukrainian issue in the UN Security Council.

2022 was the Centenary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with the USA and United Kingdom. This jubilee was commemorated and celebrated with several political, economic, military and diplomatic, cultural and other events in both our counties. In November, in Washington was also held the Dialogue on Strategic Cooperation. In this context, apart from articles and memoirs from some of its members, Council of Albanian Ambassadors hosted the Conference “The first visit of a US President in office, George W. Bush” with the attendance of many high level local and foreign personalities.

Nevertheless, despite the above-mentioned successes and achievements, our foreign policy is not free from concerns and even serious ones in some cases. Thus, the dossier on Ionian Sea is in danger of having a disadvantageous solution for our side.

The difficulty becomes even larger since it is also included in the Negotiation Frame with the EU, as an obligation with repercussions for us. Likewise, the lack of public transparency in dealing with this issue of national importance is also problematic. The initiative “Open Balkans” considered almost as a “paradigm shift”, it has proved to be overlapping and an attempt to replace the Berlin Process and the EU Western Balkans Common Market. As problematic is also viewed the shift by official Tirana of its political and diplomatic emphasis to Belgrade to Pristina’s detriment.






On the other hand, the Government has caused a huge deadlock and is in great need to change the corps of our ambassadors abroad. For the first time in the history of our diplomacy, over 70 per cent of our ambassadors and General Consuls abroad have exceeded their legal terms, staying in the same post over 2 times longer, whereas many others have also surpassed long ago the retirement age. We have clearly denounced this diplomatic scandal with a special Statement also in December, urging the immediate change of this situation.

Besides the above-mentioned, the next serious concern is the asymmetry and sharp contrast between our foreign policy, generally speaking successful, with our domestic performance, full of problems and obstacles.

Thus, we rank first for high prices and costs and especially for corruption, losing 27 places during 2022! We are also the last regarding the incomes, the salary level, expenses for education, health, culture and the youth. A research conducted by the EU Commission in December revealed that we rank last in Europe, with 69 per cent of the population that cannot afford the most minimal needs! The prospects seem to be gloomy, when the youth until 30 years old have 3 times less chances for training and employment than their mates in the EU!

This gloomy catalogue continues with the illicit asylum, which due to its dreadful proportions is leading to “depopulation” and has grown up to 160 per cent as against last year, whereas the Government has surrendered without conditions! The EU and the UK in particular have sounded notes of alarm, because only during the most recent weeks, over 2 per cent of our population have entered there illegally and the “storms” in “La Mansch” go on. According to Eurostat, we are the first in Europe for asylum demands per capita with 5/1000 inhabitants, at a time when 57 per cent of our population lives abroad.

Another failure was the alleged cyber sophistication, despite the amounts in Million Euros spent to update and maintain it. The attacks from Iranian hackers pulled down the whole governmental edifice and almost nothing has remained without being exposed to the general public.



Among others, these alarming occurrences, associated with affairs and scandals affect the EU accession pace. True, there is a strong persistence that it should be necessarily done by the EU in the geopolitical plane; yet, it should not be forgotten that whatever Brussels, Paris, Berlin and other EU capitals do to help us, the defining factor remains us, Albanians, not with words and oaths only, but primarily through laws and by implementing reforms in full compliance with the EU legislation and spirit.

Together with other concerns mentioned in the Progress Report by the EU Commission and that of the US State Department, including the attitude to the critical media, they can also slow down the dynamics of the accession negotiations. These and other democratic deficits and concerns cannot be solved solely or mainly by the foreign policy, neither by our strategic allies, the USA and the EU alone! Decisive to this end remain our domestic policies, actors and factors.

Otherwise, this weak domestic performance could seriously impair the image and the creditability of our geopolitics, which could end up with a backlash for us.

Last, but not the least, these problematics crying out for solution are well-known. Therefore, it is high time to put aside our approach pursued to date, when we only demand, criticize and demonize others, including the EU for our failures and deficits. This requires a new political spirit within the country, among the opposition, governing majority and a total mobilization for the rapid and qualitative implementation of the major objectives defined in the above-mentioned fora; certainly reinforced with diplomatic efforts in all dimensions and in all important decision- making centers.



CONGRATULATIONS BY THE COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL EU CZECH PRESIDENCY

Tirana, 24 January 2023

On the occasion of the successful termination of the EU Presidency (1 July – 31 December 2022) the Council of Albanian Ambassadors (CAA) extends its best congratulations to the highest Czech state, government and diplomatic authorities.

The Czech Republic assumed the rotating Presidency from France in utterly difficult times, only 5 months after the unprovoked and unjustified Russian aggression against an independent and sovereign state as Ukraine; when the EU, the USA and the entire progressive community was at the helm of their demarches and projects to avoid the grave effects of this aggression for Ukraine, Europe and beyond.

Under these conditions and circumstances, upon the Czech Presidency befell the major responsibility to continue the consolidation of the political, military and diplomatic cohesion of Western Alliance. This Presidency proved to be at the height of its task, guiding and coordinating its activity with the EU Commission, Council and Parliament in the major political, economic, diplomatic and humanitarian decisions. Thus, following the 6 previous packages, in July, October and most recently on 14 December 2022, three other packages with hard economic sanctions were added against Russia.

Likewise, the Czech Presidency coordinated the major efforts, measures and reforms to overcome the grave consequences, due to the energy and food crisis caused by the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Besides measures to finally reduce and eliminate the Russian dependency, the EU reached a consensus by the end of December for a ceiling on gas price, a tangible achievement in facing up the energy crisis that has affected many western countries.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors notices with pleasure the many events, processes and programs coordinated during the Czech Presidency to help the Ukrainian people and army in their heroic resistance and war against Russian aggressors.

Thus, the EU provided Ukraine with additional financial aids amounting to 20 billion Euro and has planned other assistance for the near future. Conscious for the huge damages caused to the infrastructure in Ukraine estimated to be nearly 750 billion Euro, during the Czech Presidency, apart from providing multi-faceted aids, progress was also made related to the procedures of freezing the bank assets of Russian oligarchs in order to meet the reconstruction needs.

In a wider political and institutional respect, Council of Albanian Ambassadors commends the Czech Presidency, particularly in its capacity as the host of the first Summit of the new European Political Community (EPC) in Prague on 6 October 2022 with the presence of leaders from 44 EU member, candidate and non-members, including the 6 Western Balkan states. EPC is a new paneuropean political grouping, which provides a wide – reaching platform for the “promotion of political dialogue and cooperation in dealing with issues of mutual benefit, strengthening security, stability and prosperity in the Continent”.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors shows its highest appreciation since, albeit other major challenges in and outside the EU, the Czech Presidency showed an exceptional attention and interest for Western Balkans, encouraging and promoting the historic process of speeding up its EU accession in all areas, making in this way the much – expected historic turning point. The Summit in Prague confirmed “Enlargement”, as a MUST, as an inalienable and irreplaceable alternative at the top of EU Agenda.

The Czech Presidency contributed to this turning point with a series of events, strategies and action plans, with clear and bold objectives, starting with EU Summits, the latter not only devoted to but also held in the Balkans! With its highlights here the EU Summit in Brussels on 29 June, the EPC in Prague on 6 October and the EU – WB Summit in Tirana on 6 December 2022.



The Council of Albanian Ambassadors appreciates the fact that these summits, visits and processes are accompanied with intensive acts, decisions and actions in search of final solutions to problems in suspense with some noticeable and promising achievements. On 18 July 2022, the accession negotiations were opened with Albania and North Macedonia. Then, on 14 December, the EU Council decided on the liberalization of visas with Kosovo, not later than the 1st of January 2024, whereas the latter on 15 December submitted to the Czech Presidency in Prague the formal application for EU Accession, as a clear message of its Euro – Atlantic course. In their recent days, the European Council decided to offer the “Candidate” status to Bosnia – Hercegovina. The Council of Albanian Ambassadors in its Statement on 6 December clearly pointed out that these challenges and achievements were also confirmed in the EU – Western Balkans Summit in Tirana on 6 December 2022, the first in the region and in our capital. Tirana Summit brought back to attention the special significance that keeping the doors open to the European prospect and speeding up the enlargement process with the countries in the region it has in the agenda of the highest institutions of the EU and its Member States. On this occasion, the CAA does also extend its best greetings to the Czech Embassy in Tirana, for its qualitative work and efforts to convey the spirit and echo of its Presidency in Tirana.

Finally, Council of Albanian Ambassadors believes that on the basis of this brilliant experience of the EU Czech Presidency, its successor, Sweden will continue in this track, carrying out these remarkable achievements and for the most rapid materialization of its objectives.



COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS ON THE FOUNDING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNES WITH SERBIAN MAJORITY IN KOSOVA

Tirana, 4 February 2023

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors (CAA) is following closely the developments related to the dialogue between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia for the settlement of their inter-state disputes.

The CAA emphasizes that the source of problems and tensions in the relations between the Republic of Kosova and the Republic of Serbia is that Serbia maintains a hostile and aggressive attitude towards Kosova and its people.

The CAA states that the normalization of inter-state relations between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia is a pre-condition for the normal development of these two countries, which would be beneficial for the entire region.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors wants to make it clear that there would never be normal relations, neither between the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Serbia, nor between Albanian and Serbian nations, as long as Belgrade does not recognize Kosova's independence.

The active and principled commitment by the USA and the EU is indispensable for the successful end of the process for the normalization of inter-state relations between Kosova and Serbia. Both these parties should be treated on equal footing and each side should fulfil the obligations stemming from this dialogue.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors holds that all agreements signed during the dialogue process should be treated and implemented on equal basis.

It is very upsetting that the Republic of Serbia has never implemented the agreement on putting an end to its illegal institutional structures in Kosovo and some other agreements as well.

As we have been repeatedly witnessing, Serbia's – led criminal structures in Kosova threaten peace and security in Kosova's northern part and make incessant pressure on all inhabitants of that part of the Republic of Kosova, without any ethnical distinction.

Even more disquieting is the tolerance and, in some cases, the understanding amidst international circles and emissaries for these illegal structures and their Belgrade sponsors.

While referring to the founding of the Association of Communes with Serbian Majority in Kosova, the Council of Albanian Ambassadors wants to bring back to attention that this has been an outstanding issue since 2015 and has re-occurred due to the reasonable apprehension in Pristina that these entities could be turned into Serbian tools to undermine the state sovereignty and the constitutional functionality of the Republic of Kosova.

In order to avoid such a danger, every eventual action and process related to the founding of the Association of Communes with Serbian Majority in Kosova should be based on the following three fundamental principles:

First, the Association of Communes with Serbian Majority should not infringe the fundamental constitutional principles of the Republic of Kosova – sovereignty, constitutional primacy and the unitary character of the Republic of Kosova.

Secondly, the Association of Communes with Serbian Majority in Kosova can be neither a mono-ethnic structure, nor an intermediary between the central and communal level.

Thirdly, the Association of Communes with Serbian Majority cannot be tackled separately from the Final Agreement between the Republic of Kosova and the Republic of Serbia, as two sovereign and independent countries that recognize one another as such.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors expresses its full- fledged confidence that as always, the Republic of Kosova will behave as a responsible state that preserves its state interest and strategic alliances, devoted to peace and stability in the region and to the Euro-Atlantic integration.

Meanwhile, we consider as unprincipled and counterproductive the international pressure put only on Kosova and solely for one out of over 30 signed agreements hitherto.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors will continue to stand on its side and offer the unreserved support to the Republic of Kosova. We do also appeal to the institutions of the Republic of Albania not to stay passive and indifferent to the historic processes through which the Republic of Kosova and its people are going through, with a long- term impact on peace, security and development all over our region.





HAPPY 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA

Prizren, 17th February 2023

Happy to celebrate in Pristina together with our colleagues from Kosova and prominent personalities from the diaspora, the 15th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Kosovo.

This anniversary sees Kosovo as a country with consolidated institutions, an example of democracy and a contributor to peace, stability and security in the region.

We expressed our readiness to jointly contribute to Kosovo's success in the new challenges ahead, especially in the Euro-Atlantic integration processes.

We are also pleased with the visit to Prizren, one of the pearls of our culture, traditions and national history, as well as a symbol of the unity of Albanians, but also a reflection of the coexistence of different cultures of the peoples of the region.

Inspired and committed to work also as a Council of Albanian Ambassadors for Kosovo's membership in UNESCO as soon as possible and the nomination of Prizren as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.





Këshilli i Ambasadorëve Shqiptarë i propozon Kuvendit të Republikës së Shqipërisë që dita e Pavarësisë e Republikës së Kosovës të shpallë Festë Zyrtare.

Tiranë, më 22 Shkurt 2023

Duke vlerësuar 17 Shkurtin e vitit 2008, ditën e shpalljes së Pavarësisë së Republikës së Kosovës,

- si një nga ngjarjet më të rëndësishme në historinë tonë kombëtare;
- si përmbushjen e një aspirote shekullore të kombit tonë në rrugën e tij drejt forcimit të identitetit, bashkimit kombëtar dhe integritit në strukturat Euro – Atlantike;
- si një ditë të shënuar që frymëzon çdo shqiptar;
- si ngjarje madhore për të cilën kanë kontribuar shqiptarët anembanë botës, me mbështetjen e fuqishme të SHBA-ve, BE-së, NATOs dhe vendeve të tjera aleate dhe mike,

Këshilli i Ambasadorëve Shqiptarë i ka drejtuar një kërkesë zyrtare Kuvendit, më dt. 21 Shkurt 2023, për të ndërmarrë nismat përkatëse ligjore për ta shpallur këtë datë Festë Zyrtare të Republikës së Shqipërisë.

COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS VISITS THE PRESHEVA VALLEY

Tirana, March 23, 2023

A delegation from the Council of Albanian Ambassadors led by its President Mr. Besnik Mustafaj, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, made a working visit to the Presheva Valley, Medvegje, Presheve and Bujanovc.

The delegation met and held talks with Mr. Shaip Kamberi, member of the Parliament of Serbia, as well as political representatives and leaders of local institutions of the Valley, Mrs. Ardita Sinani, Mr. Shqipërim Arifi, Mr. Ragmi Mustafa, the Chairman of the Albanian National Council of the Presheve Valley, Mr. Ragmi Mustafi, Mr. Arben Ferhati, etc.

Council of Albanian Ambassadors was informed by the hosts about the very difficult challenges and problems that the Albanians of the Valley are going through, starting with the absurd and discriminatory implementation of the law on the passivation of addresses, the non-recognition of Kosovo's diplomas and the countless bureaucracies for the recognition of those of Albania, discrimination in employment in state institutions in favor of Serbs, lack of attention and state investments, relocation of the court from Presheva, etc.

All of these have brought racial or ethnic discrimination and violence, especially towards the Albanian minority living in their own lands, unprecedented even for Serbia, and a modern ethnic cleansing, as evidenced by the latest report of the American State Department and in the reports and studies of the Helsinki Committee of Serbia.

The representatives of the Valley presented a series of requests and remarks to the governments of the Republic of Albania and Kosovo. They asked for more attention, awareness of their situation, reciprocal treatment of their rights with those of the Serbs in Kosovo, the inclusion of the issue of the Albanians of the Valley in the Kosovo-Serbia talks, the creation of a national solidarity fund of the governments of Albania and Kosovo for investments in the Valley, the opening of an Albanian consulate in Bujanovc.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors expressed that it approved and understood the description of the situation and the demands of the representatives of the Valley, that the difficult situation was clearly observed on the ground, and promised that it will engage all its capacities to sensitize the western offices and most important centers of decision-making, but also the governments of the Republic of Albania and that of Kosovo for more attention in the direction of respecting human rights, the rights of the Albanians of the Presheva Valley, for the increase of investments that would stop the hemorrhaging of the well planned emptying of Albanians from the Valley, or as Department of State has assessed the "modern ethnic cleansing" of the Valley by Albanians.

The Council of Albanian Ambassadors takes the opportunity to thank Dr. Dergut Aliu and Mr. Marco Salihu, members of the Advisory Board from the Presheva Valley, as well as Mr. Fadil Selmani, Chairman of the League of United Associations of Presevo, Bujanovc and Medvegje in Switzerland, for their precious help in the successful realization of this visit.

NEWS & ACTIVITIES DURING THE LAST 2 YEARS



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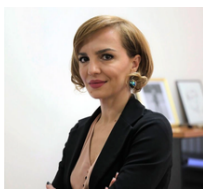
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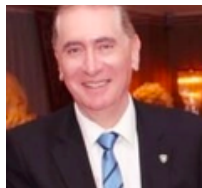
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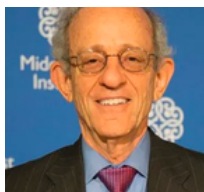
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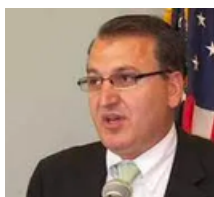
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- *to set up the moral tones of the Albanian National Foreign Policy;*
- *to provide professional support to the Albanian Foreign Policy, on behalf of the nation's interests;*
- *to provide assistance for a more efficient and professional performance of the Albanian diplomacy;*
- *to promote the image of the Albanian diplomacy, state and nation in the international arena.*

2020 - 2022