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Press Release

COMKFOR visits Albanian CHOD in Tirana

Today, 21st of January 2011, the Commander of KFOR, Major General Erhald Bühler, pursuant to his personal tour through South East Balkan, developed a short official visit in Albania.

During the visit, General Bühler, met Chief of General Staff of Albanian Armed Forces Major General Maksim Malaj, as well as the highest representatives of General Staff personnel. General Bühler at that meeting presented a complete overview upon KFOR related issues and events. He reported on the challenges and issues of KFOR to pursue its mission and at the same time to accomplish the task of the “Reduction of KFOR forces and the gradually passing of tasks upon the competences to the Kosovo’s institutions especially the Kosovo Police”. He assumed that KFOR with a reduced number of soldiers and with two Multinational Battle Groups, under his direct command and with an increased flexibility, mobility and readiness, will be able to do its job in an environment which is more and more safe and stable.

Further, General Bühler assessed the situation at the border between Albania and Kosovo. He stated that the hand over of authority from KFOR to the Kosovo Border and Boundary Police was successful and that the cooperation between the Albanian and the Kosovar Police force is successful. There are no major incidents reported.

Chief of general Staff of Albanian Armed forces Major General Maksim Malaj, represented the reforms overtaken into Albanian Armed Forces and the engagement of those forces in the mission abroad Albania such as Afghanistan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo etc.



At the same time, Chief of General Staff of Albanian Armed Forces General Malaj made a short analysis on the cooperation between Albanian Armed Forces and NATO, represented by KFOR in Kosovo. General Bühler praised the strong and competent contribution of Albanian soldiers to KFOR: “They do a great job and help us strongly to accomplish our tasks. The members of the Albanian Armed Forces are highly professional and very good comrades and friends in KFOR’s and NATO’s international community of soldiers”, he said.

At the end, as a conclusion of the meeting, the Generals stressed the need of the further strengthening of cooperation and the relationship on the benefits of security, stability and prosperity in the region and somewhere else.