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Press release in conjunction with Ministry of Internal Affairs

Commander KFOR, General Erhard Bühler, visited the Kosovo Centre for Public Safety, Education and Development.

Commander KFOR, General Erhard Bühler, has visited the Kosovo Centre for Public Safety, Education and Development (KCPSED) in Vushtrri today (31st of March 2011). This has been the first meeting of a Commanding General of KFOR with the staff and the students of this institution. For General Bühler it has been an important event in the context of the NATO and KFOR policy to hand over successively responsibilities for security and public order to the Kosovo Police (KP).

General Bühler was welcomed by the Chief Executive of the Centre, General Sheremet Ahmeti, and his staff. Commander KFOR was informed about the task of this security institution, its organization and the different training systems in a four-eyes-meeting with the Chief Executive, in a briefing provided by the staff, lecturers and instructors of this institution and also in conversations with police trainees.

The KCPSED is an executive agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is responsible for ensuring professional standards based on the competencies that are given for education and training for members of public safety agencies. These are the Kosovo Police, the Kosovo Correctional Service, the Kosovo Customs and the Emergency Management Agency. Modern Education of members of these public safety agencies in the context of the rule of law is a precondition of the development

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and the creation of a modern democracy oriented and sustainable security in Kosovo. The formation of the security personnel follows the lines of internationally accepted standards. Each year around 13000 students attend courses or lectures at this school. It is divided in four departments: Program Support, Logistics and administration, police training, planning and external relations.

General Bühler was impressed by the standards and the performance of the Centre in general and the police training in particular. He pointed out the KFOR is still strong and by the new structure of this NATO peace force the efficiency, the flexibility and the mobility of its units has been increased. The international soldiers under his command are highly professional and determined to provide a safe and secure environment everywhere in Kosovo. Although the security situation overall in Kosovo is calm and stable KFOR is ready to take action against threats whenever and wherever it is necessary.

However in the medium and long term the KP has to take over more of KFOR responsibilities to provide security and to restore public order if necessary. For example it is very important that the KP will guard the cultural heritage sites, among them some monasteries, or will guard more border areas by its Border Police Units. Some of these duties have already been taken over by the KP and the results are very good and promising. Commander KFOR praised the performance and the professionalism of the KP officers as excellent. Further he was impressed by the reports about the crowd and riot control capabilities of the special KP unit which had conducted an exercise with the Italian Carabinieri of the KFOR MSU Battalion. General Bühler summed up his assessment of the KP: "All these examples of the professional work of the KP is a very promising development and supports my

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impression that this police force plays a main role to protect people in Kosovo and together with KFOR provides the framework of security and stability for the political and economical development of Kosovo. And the Centre for Public Safety is the backbone for this excellent performance of the KP.”

General Ahmeti thanked Commander KFOR for his visit and the support of KFOR for the security institution in Kosovo, especially the police. He pointed out that “cooperation with the KFOR is essential to improve security in Kosovo and also KCPSD is ready to do additional trainings in areas of new competences that are being transferred from the KFOR to the Kosovo Police”.

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