



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Press release

High Level Meeting

Of the Joint Implementation Commission Between KFOR and Serbian Armed Forces

Commander KFOR, Major General Erhard Bühler, and the Serbian Armed Forces Chief of General Staff, General Miloje Miletic, conducted on Tuesday, 21st of June 2011, a high level meeting of the Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) in Kapaonik, at the ABL with southern Serbia.

JIC meetings take place regularly between KFOR and the Serbian military authorities on different levels since 1999, following the obligations derived from the “Kumanovo-Agreement”. Primary objects of these meetings are to monitor, liaise and de-conflict as fulfilment of the requirements of the Military Technical Agreement which include e.g. the exchange of information concerning security forces on both sides of the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL), their exercises and operations or issues regarding the security on the ABL.

General Bühler informed General Miletic about the current situation of KFOR and the completed reorganisation of KFOR, now organised in two Multinational Battle Groups East and West and in five Joint Regional Detachments. He pointed out that this new configuration of KFOR has already proved its worth. KFOR is still ready and determined to accomplish its tasks by performing the appropriate mobility, flexibility and readiness of the troops as a compensation for the reduction. Presently KFOR and the national contingents have approximately 6000 soldiers. KFOR will remain committed to its mission to provide a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement all over Kosovo. In that respect KFOR will continue to cooperate with EULEX and the International Civilian Presence as well as with the Kosovo Police.

Both Generals assessed the cooperation between KFOR and the Serbian Armed Forces as very good, highly professional on the basis of mutual respect. Examples of this successful cooperation are synchronized patrols along the ABL or the exchange of security information astride the ABL between KFOR Multinational Battlegroups and SAF Brigades and overall cross-boundary JIC cooperation.

General Bühler informed General Miletic about the recent achievements of the Kosovo Security Force and his assessment that they are going to reach the final operational capability very soon. He pointed out that this force may not be seen as a threat to



anybody at the Balkans but a multiethnic force to serve all citizens of Kosovo. He suggested to include the Kosovo Security Force in the regional security cooperation.

The general situation along the ABL has remained calm and stable. Some cross boundary criminal activities, such as smuggling, illegal immigrations or illegal woodcutting could be dealt with by the professional cooperation of the security forces of both sides and the synchronized patrols along the ABL.

Both Generals exchanged information and views on the overall situation in Kosovo.

General Bühler congratulated General Miletic on having successfully hosted the International Military Conference in Belgrade earlier this month. It has been a valuable contribution to peace and stability in the Balkans that this event took place in the region and that Serbia played an important role in the discussion about the future of South East Europe.

The meeting was conducted in a cooperative atmosphere of mutual trust. General Miletic and General Bühler agreed to continue and further develop the cooperation between both sides and to enhance the communication between KFOR and the Serbian Armed Forces on their proper level.