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Press release

Commander KFOR visited Partes Municipality.

Commander Kosovo Force (KFOR), General Erhard Bühler, continuing his visits to different Municipalities in the area, today 12th July, visited the Municipality of Partes.

On his arrival, Commander of KFOR, accompanied by Joint Regional Detachment East Commander Daniel STARK, was welcomed by the Deputy Mayor of the Municipality, Mr. Dejan JOCIC who warmly expressed his gratitude for the visit on behalf of the Mayor, Mr. Nenad CVKOVIC and his citizens.

Mr. Dejan JOCIC received Commander KFOR in the Municipal Building and on that occasion he gave an overview about the developments of the municipality since it was established in 2010. Actually Partes is a lately created municipality in Kosovo and it was established with the local elections held on June and July 2010. It is the last of the four already established Serb majority Municipalities in the South as foreseen by the Ahtisaari Plan.

Originally Partes was administrated by the Gnjilane municipality. After Partes had been created the administration of Gnjilane handed over property, competencies and other assets to the new one without frictions. So the responsible local politicians and decision makers of Partes had been in the position to develop a well organized municipal administration since 2010. However General Bühler was informed that there are still Serbian parallel structures in Partes, working against the legal elected municipality representatives. They try to abstract the work of legal Administration and to intimidate citizens and civil servants of the municipality.

General Bühler on the occasion of his visit congratulated the Deputy Mayor and his team, as representatives of the people of Partes, for their successful municipal transition and praised the trusting cooperation between Partes and Gnjilane. As an example of that relationship, with regards to the security, the Deputy Mayor informed General Bühler that presently Gnjilane Kosovo Police station is still responsible for Partes. However a local station is planned for Partes because the population likes to have its policemen working near by producing a good feeling of security in their proper neighborhoods. On that occasion Mr. Dejan JOCIC accompanied Commander KFOR with his delegation to the designated place for the new station and ensured that the works will start soon. General Bühler emphasized that it has always been the policy and the commitment of KFOR and NATO that all areas and

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municipalities of Kosovo are provided with the service of a modern, efficient and friendly police which is near to the citizens and which is only

obliged to the rule of law. It is one important element to build up a modern democratic parliamentary state where people can enjoy their freedom and their civil rights. He sharply criticized the illegal activities of Serbian parallel structures, including illegal under covered illegal Police agents. He asked the representatives of the Municipality to care about this question and to consult the issue with other responsible organizations.

On the occasion of his walk through the town of Partes General Bühler was informed about further important projects that are being carried out under the authority of the Municipality. The Deputy Major accompanied Commander KFOR during his visit of the town to the about to be finished hospital. That project was realized with the money allocated in the new municipality of Partes by the Kosovan Government. He assessed the propaganda of the parallel structures that this hospital was financed by the Serbian Ministry for Kosovo as an example that the parallel structures want, propagandistically hide the truth that this hospital is entirely financed by the Kosovo State.

He also visited the construction site of the sewage system and of the new Cultural Centre Both of these elements of a municipality's infrastructure are key elements of the functionality of a town or city. Regarding the Cultural Centre General Bühler expressed his wish and his hopes that this institution will be used to bring people of all ethnicities together, to increase openness for the ideas and sentiments of the other and to improve the idea of tolerance and mutual respect.

COMKFOR congratulated the Deputy Mayor and all the inhabitants of Partes for the great successful Municipality building, the strong commitment expressed in the past and future work and for the outstanding results actually achieved.

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