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HEADQUARTERS KOSOVO FORCE
FILM CITY, PRISTINA



**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 Wednesday, 31st of August 2011, a high level meeting of the Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) in KFOR Villaggio Italia Camp, in Pec/Peja.

General Bühler informed General Miletic about the current situation in Kosovo in general and about the recent events in the North of Kosovo in particular. Commander KFOR gave an overview of the course of events since 25th of July 2011 and the measures taken by KFOR. He made it clear that the common understanding achieved with the involved parties was only mediated by him and that the measures of KFOR are taken independently on behalf of KFOR and are based purely on security reasons.

The control procedures and the restrictions put in place at the gates by Commander KFOR in order to ensure a safe and secure environment were explained by General Bühler. Passage through the gates remains limited for security reasons. The gates are opened for private vehicles and buses. Trucks are prohibited passage with exceptions. Goods for the Serbian Orthodox Church are allowed to pass. Humanitarian assistance are permitted under certain conditions.

General Bühler thanked General Miletic for the mutual information and the close communication during the days of the crisis. He also expressed his gratitude for very helpful and calming comments of the Serbian Defence Authorities during the last weeks. The JIC on all levels has proved its functionality and efficiency from the very beginning of the crisis during night of 25th of July.

Both Generals assessed that, even in such tense situation, 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.

Apart from the incidents during the first week of the crisis the general situation along the ABL has remained relatively calm and stable. Some cross boundary criminal activities, such as smuggling, illegal immigrations or illegal woodcutting will be dealt with by the professional cooperation of the security forces of both sides and the synchronized patrols along the ABL. Actually, after the events occurred in the North, and the following common understanding, this cooperation will be adapted to the new situation, which will be discussed and coordinated in the context of the Joint Implementation Commission.

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Both Generals exchanged information and views on the overall situation in Kosovo. The meeting again was conducted in a very cooperative atmosphere of mutual trust.

The High Level JIC conference was the last meeting between General Miletic and General Bühler before Commander KFOR's end of tour on 9th of September 2011. Two Generals thanked each other for good and professional cooperation.

Both sides agreed that the cooperation will continue with General Bühler's successor in order to develop and to enhance the communication and cooperation between KFOR and the Serbian Armed Forces on their proper level.

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.