



## Association-Integration Roads of Kosovo to the EU

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### **Abstract**

We cannot understand the role that the European Union has played in the formation of the state of Kosovo, without knowing deeply the nature, structure and way of construction and action, on the ground, of this organization. This is because the EU is a "sui generis" international organization, compared to other organizations we know: it is neither a "normal" international organization nor does it function as a national political system. Of course, the role and The "weight" of the EU in international developments is of special and unique importance, especially for European countries and states. The European Union has played an important role in the Kosovo issue, starting with the Resolution of the European Parliament (1989), until the establishment of UNMIK in Kosovo (June 1999), when the EU was the bearer of the reconstruction of Kosovo through Pillar IV, as well as its engagement in the negotiation process to define the final status of Kosovo. presence of the EU in Kosovo, it should be emphasized that the installation of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe marks a big step in the direction of the consolidation of the subsequent preventive regional peace.

**Keywords:** *"Sui Generis" International Organization; Resolution of the European Parliament*

### **1. Introduction**

We cannot understand the role played by the European Union in the formation of the state of Kosovo. Without deeply knowing the nature, structure and way of construction and action, on the ground, of this organization. This is because the EU is a "sui generis" international organization, compared to other organizations we know: it is neither a "normal" international organization nor does it function as a national political system. Of course, the role and The "weight" of the EU in international developments is of special and unique importance, especially for European countries and states. The European Union has played an important role in the Kosovo issue, starting with the Resolution of the European Parliament (1989), until the establishment of UNMIK in Kosovo (June 1999), when the EU was the bearer of the

reconstruction of Kosovo through Pillar IV, as well as its engagement in the negotiation process for defining the final status of Kosovo.

During the presence of the EU in Kosovo, it should be emphasized that the installation of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe marks a big step in the direction of the consolidation of regional preventive peace later. Kosovo, as part of Europe, is not and cannot remain a "black spot" in the Balkans.

After signing the agreement on the normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo, between Pristina and Belgrade, under the patronage of Baroness Ashton, the EU is preparing the implementation of the agreement on the free movement of citizens of Kosovo, in the framework of the SAA for European integration of Kosovo. Fighting crime is also a condition for European integration (Jasarević & Maloku, 2021a and 2021b). The increase in criminality (Maloku, 2016) also causes greater victimization (Maloku, 2019) in the Region where this increase dominates.

## **2. Methodology**

Because of the research's intricacy, numerous approaches have been modified to help each other solve the problem. (Maloku, Qerimi, & Maloku 2022: !76). The scientific research in this paper, in terms of its type, will be conducted and realized as methodological research, which is basically theoretical., (Maloku, Kastrati, Gabela, & Maloku, E. 2022:141). In order to achieve the purpose of the work, descriptive, analytical, synthesis methods as well as inductive and deductive methods will be used. The paper also analyzed many reports, projects, strategies as well as national and international laws related to the research field. Sources of research data in this work are theoretical sources: scientific literature dealing with the study of theory and scientific theory, as well as methodology as a science. (Qerimi, Kastrati, Maloku, Gabela & Maloku.2023:186)

## **3. Results and Discussion**

### **3.1. PSA - Association Stabilization Process**

The Balkans is one of the regions that experienced the most difficult transition after the Cold War. The disintegration of the former Yugoslavia was accompanied by bilateral and multilateral conflicts, regional and local wars, political and ethnic clashes. International intervention was active in the Balkans since of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Macedonia. In this case, we have a civil as well as a military presence. In this dispute, it can be said that the USA, NATO, EU, UN, OSCE, EC and a considerable number of regional and non-political organizations have played their role.

As a result, from the six Balkan states after the Second World War, which included Albania, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Romania, the number increased to twelve (by erasing the name of Yugoslavia from the map) with Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and in 2008 the Republic of Kosovo. When it comes to the Eastern European countries that have joined the European Union (Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria), this process would probably take longer to become part of the EU if they had not played a role. here the United States of America is constantly urging the member states of the European Union for their fastest possible accession to the EU. This American position has expressed concern for the fate of the young and fragile democracies of Eastern Europe. The causes for them were the great problems in which they had fallen after the destruction of the communist regimes, their economies. The US wanted to prevent the new strengthening of political extremism and the return of the communists to power, but this time through democratic means.

The US itself was not ready to develop a new version of the Marshall Plan for Eastern Europe. Instead, they were of the opinion that the main burden of care for the recovery of Eastern Europe should be taken by the rich countries of Western Europe. (Bebler, 2008:209)

The most appropriate way for this has been the earlier acceptance of the democracies of Eastern Europe into the European Union. Dissatisfied with the procrastination of the European Union, the US government, during the term of President B. Clinton, decided in 1994 to speed up the process of the integration of the Eastern European states into the "West", with the acceptance of the three once most important members. strategic of the Warsaw Pact in the North Atlantic Alliance. At the initiative of the USA, the collective decision regarding this was taken in Madrid in 1997. Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary had to wait another seven years for admission to the European Union.

Only in 2004 did it reach the acceptance of the group of ten countries in membership of the European Union. Currently, the Balkans is completely oriented towards the Euro-Atlantic structures.

No country in the Balkans, with only an occasional hesitation from Serbia, has other orientations than these orientations. This in any case makes the process easier, because we are dealing with the acceptance of the same values and intentions in entering the same regional, European and global interests. Despite the same orientations in values and geopolitical interests, the Balkans due to past legacies and problems in transition, it is currently in a fragmented stage related to integration in the European Union (Bashkurti (2006:193). In addition to Greece, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria are now members of the European Union. Croatia and Macedonia, which have been granted the status of candidate countries, remain part of the PSA. Other countries of the Western Balkans are possible candidate countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, including Kosovo according to Resolution 1244 of the UNSC. Enlargement is one of the most powerful tools of the European Union's policies. The support of the EU- has helped the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to transform into modern and functional democracies. Now of late it has inspired far-reaching reforms in candidate and potential candidate countries.

All European citizens benefit from having neighbors with stable democracies and advanced market economies. Enlargement is a carefully managed process that helps transform the countries involved, thus enhancing peace, stability, prosperity, democracy, human rights and the rule of law across Europe.

The Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) is the European Union's policy framework for the countries of the Western Balkans, all the way to their full membership.

Partnership among all partners: peace, stability, freedom, security, justice, prosperity, quality of life for the EU and for the countries of the Western Balkans. PSA pursues three goals, respectively:

- Stabilization and a quick transition to a market economy;
- Promotion of regional cooperation;
- The European perspective.

This process helps the countries of the region to build their capacities to adopt and implement European standards, including the *acquis* and international standards.

The PSA is based on the progressive partnership, in which the EU offers a mix of trade concessions, economic and financial assistance (CARDS Program) and contractual relations (Stabilization-Association Agreements). Each country moves forward depending on the fulfillment of commitments from the PSA framework. The Annual Progress Reports assess how ready the countries of the Western Balkans are to move closer to the EU. Following the EU's Regional Approach to the Western

Balkans in 1997, the European Commission in 1999 set the foundations for moving towards a more ambitious vision. for the development of the region - Stabilization-Association Process. Its instruments were formulated at the Zagreb Summit in November 2000.

The Thessaloniki Summit in June 2003 enriched the PSA with elements inspired by the enlargement process, so that it could better meet the new challenges.

A number of new instruments were introduced in the Agenda of Thessaloniki to support the reform process in the countries of the Western Balkans and bring them closer to the EU. The most influential instrument among them is the European Partnership inspired by the Process of Membership.

The first package of European Partnerships was approved in 2004:

By identifying the short-term and medium-term priorities that the countries must address, the European Partnership will help the countries of the Western Balkans in reforms and preparations for future membership. All the countries of the Western Balkans have the prospect of EU membership in the future, an objective supported by the European Council in Feira in June 2000, and confirmed in Thessaloniki in June 2003. The Council of Europe in June 2005 has clearly confirmed these commitments. In January 2006, the European Commission adopted a Communication on "The Western Balkans on the Road to the EU: Consolidating Stability and Increasing Prosperity". The communiqué assesses the progress made since the Thessaloniki Summit, as well as defines concrete measures to strengthen European policies and its instruments for the Western Balkans. In the March 2008 communique on the Western Balkans, the goal was to increase the European perspective. The Commission adopted new and strengthened initiatives to support the political and economic development of the Western Balkans, helping to accelerate their progress towards EU membership.

### 3.2. Forward Mechanism of Stabilization of Association (MPSA)

Kosovo finds a place in the EU's foreign policy for the Western Balkans within the framework of the PSA Forwarding Mechanism. The PSA Forwarding Mechanism was established in November 2002 in order for Kosovo to benefit from the main elements of the Stabilization and Association Process. The PSA Forwarding Mechanism was created to enable Kosovo not to fall behind the countries of the region in the process of European integration. Due to the unresolved status at that time, Kosovo could not enter the regular stabilization-association process. At the beginning of 2003, Kosovo was partially included in this process through the Forward Mechanism of Stabilization and Association ( STL). Therefore, the case of Kosovo in relation to the European Union remains very specific. In Kosovo, the EU applied a completely new model for including territories under international administration in this process. (Reka & Ibrahim, 2004:266)

MPSA presents a forum in which political and technical discussions are held between the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) and the European Commission (EC). The MPSA was created to provide the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government with EU expertise as well as policy guidance to enable the Kosovo authorities to benefit as much as possible from the various instruments of the PSA. MPSA contributes to administrative reforms and institutions, international and local administration for the principles on which practices with EU policies are built.

The main goal is to support Kosovo in its structural reforms in line with the EU through advice and guidance. This will help to keep Kosovo, firmly, in its progress towards European structures.

The Forward Mechanism and the Annual Progress Report are the main instruments of the European Commission for monitoring Kosovo's achievements in the EU Stabilization-Association

Process, with the aim of bringing Kosovo as close as possible to the EU. (See the European Partnership Action Plan -EPAP, 2006)

Since 1999, the EU was the main carrier and the largest donor of the post-war reconstruction, present in Kosovo through the IV pillar of UNMIK. From the beginning of 2003, the European Commission inaugurated an alternative approach to the stabilization and association process for Kosovo, with the so-called follow-up mechanism. Even in 2004 it was proposed to put Kosovo under the administration of the EU. Integration into the European Union (EU) is an essential goal for Kosovo despite the speed and difficulties that may be encountered during this process. The institutional and legal infrastructure of Kosovo must be developed in such a way as to best serve this purpose. Regardless of the direction and level of status negotiations, the goal of EU integration is unwavering and remains essential.

The integration of Kosovo into the EU is considered to be the main driver for legal reforms, general social transformation and significantly for economic development. The closer we get to the EU, this approach will only be strengthened. Therefore, the need to adapt relevant policies that will intensify the process becomes a priority that must be addressed.

Initially, the MPSA was managed by the PISG and the Office for European Integration (OIE) which operates within the Pillar of the European Union within UNMIK and which is financed by the European Commission. MPSA took on an even greater meaning with the approval by the Council of the European Union of the European Partnership with Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo.

At that time, the European Partnership for Kosovo gave priority to the Plan for the Implementation of Standards for Kosovo (PISK), while the EU's priorities within the PSA were considered complementary priorities. In response to this, in January 2005 the PISG approved the action plan of Kosovo for the implementation of the European partnership and since then the unit for the management of the MPSA, which operates within the office for European integration processes, monitors and manages of the implementation process on behalf of the PISQ.

The uncertainty about the final political solution made the EU integration process difficult. Kosovo had no foreign affairs or European integration ministries to help the process. Instead, the PISG and UNMIK agreed in July 2004 to establish the Office for European Integration Processes which would operate under the authority of the Prime Minister of Kosovo. (See Administrative Instruction no. 2004/18)

The office has been responsible for the coordination of government activities in compliance with the practical and legislative activities of EU norms and standards in the context of PSA, with the aim of facilitating economic and social reforms and building capacities to support integration processes. European. Subject to general conditions (see appendix 1 for a full overview of these conditions). ZPIE should be composed of seven units in order to fulfill the assigned tasks. However, with the exception of the unit which has been responsible for the management of the MPSA, which has been functional since its establishment, the other units have been very little functional. By making a general assessment of ZPIE-e, it has been proven that the most important problems that have made the work of ZPIE-e difficult and made it less functional were:

- a) lack of capacities and human resources,
- b) weak mechanisms and lack of coordination (See [www.kipred.net](http://www.kipred.net))

- The lack of capacities and human resources has been and continues to be a problem.

Since its establishment, ZPIE has failed to hire the necessary staff on time.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister's office has failed to appoint the director of ZPIE and instead, since January 2006, this office has been functioning with its acting director. In addition, until the end of May 2006, this office had only eleven employees, five of them with a master's degree in European studies.

- Weak mechanisms and lack of coordination is another problem affecting the EU integration process. In addition to the PES, the PISG have failed to create other mechanisms within the ministries that would deal specifically with issues related to EU integration. In some ministries, special offices have been created to deal with EU integration issues, but they lacked experts to fulfill their duties. In addition, there has been little or no coordination between ZPIE and other ministries on EU integration issues. It should be reiterated that ZPIE has been the only nucleus in the government that has worked on EU integration issues, but even it has not managed to become fully functional due to the lack of professional staff and the lack of proper political support from the to the government.

However, since the declaration of Kosovo's independence, things have changed. Here we are talking about the formal establishment of institutions that will deal professionally with the issue of Kosovo's integration into the European Union. All this will undoubtedly be helped by the EULEX mission which is being deployed throughout the territory of Kosovo. (Government of Kosovo: Action Plan for the Implementation of the European Partnership for Kosovo, July, 2008.)

The Government of Kosovo has now made the action plan for the implementation of the partnership with the European Union.

In this plan, which is owned by the Agency for European Integration, the action criteria of the Kosovo government for European partnership are defined. These criteria are: political, economic and European criteria. For each criterion, a number of sub-criteria are presented which should have priority in implementation. Democracy and the rule of law, human rights and the protection of minorities are included in the political criteria, such as and regional issues and international obligations. The economic criteria have taken place: the existence of a functional market economy and the capacities to face the competitive pressure and trade forces of the Union.

In the criteria on European standards, the internal market and sectoral policies are mentioned.

The Transitional Mechanism of the Stabilization and Association Process (SPA) is the main instrument for the political dialogue between the Government of Kosovo and the European Commission within the framework of the EU Stabilization and Association Process. The main purpose of the political and technical meetings of the MPSA is the coordination and monitoring of Kosovo's reforms and the process of approximation with the EU. So far, 14 meetings of this mechanism have been held.

Starting with the first one that took place on March 13, 2003. This was a very important step for the gradual development of Kosovo in terms of structural reforms in accounting with the European Union. UNMIK and the Provisional Self-Governing Institutions of Kosovo clearly expressed their commitment to the success of the Stabilization and Association Process as well as the implementation of the recommendations that were formulated.

Based on the experiences with other countries, the European Commission welcomed the establishment of this temporary structure which included UNMIK and PISG.

The experts of the European Commission discussed the basic principles of democracy and the rule of law, the main reforms in the market economy as well as the transport and energy policies to ensure reforms in these areas that are compatible with the EU. The working meeting started with a brief

explanation of the Stabilization Association process, and with a discussion on the role and working methods in the context of the Stabilization Association Process Conveyance Mechanism of the EU. A more detailed discussion was focused on respecting political conditioning and economic EU (fundamental principles of democracy, rule of law, respect for human and minority rights as well as reforms in the market economy) as well as a general discussion of economic developments on the specific energy and transport sectors.

Reinhard Friebe, director for the Balkans at the European Commission, told reporters: "The European Union does not want Kosovo, due to its undefined status, to be left behind in the European integration processes". (Gazeta Koha ditore 13.03.2003, faqe 2)

The objective proclaimed by the EU of the Stabilization-Association Process is the stabilization of this region through political and economic reforms, in order to strengthen progress towards the European Union. While the goal of the working group for Kosovo is to support Kosovo in reforms structural, which are in line with the EU, through advice and guidelines for labor policy. Something that will help Kosovo strongly maintain the path of progress towards European structures and what will be the future of Kosovo and it will create closer ties with the European Union - it was said in the statement of the European Union.

Of course, Kosovar representatives also commented on all this. Mehmet Hajrizi, coordinator in this process, would add that: the importance of the meeting is the official inauguration of Kosovo's relationship with the EU through the follow-up mechanism. (See [www.delprn.ec.europa.eu](http://www.delprn.ec.europa.eu))

It is clear that Kosovo is treated by the European Union with the same standards and the same criteria as other countries in the region in this process. An important element is that in this process Kosovo had nothing in common with the Union of Serbia-Montenegro. In this case, Kosovo has been treated as a separate ethnicity and nothing connects it to the Union in this process. (see [www.delprn.ec.europa.eu](http://www.delprn.ec.europa.eu))

The second meeting was held on June 30 and July 1, 2003, which represented a very important step in Kosovo's gradual progress towards structural reforms in compatibility with the EU. In this meeting, the demonstration of UNMIK's commitment was confirmed, and of the PIVQ towards the success of the PSA and the implementation of the recommendations formulated within the process. The PSA Forward Mechanism and the concept of pre-status standards represent a policy of mutual reinforcement which helped Kosovo progress on the path of reforms.

European Commission experts discussed the selected topics for justice and internal affairs, media policy, telecommunications and transport with experts from UNMIK and the Provisional Self-Governing Institutions.

Efforts to strengthen the participation of minorities in the administration were also discussed, which would accelerate the achievement of the minimum required. More precisely, the multi-ethnic composition in the courts and in the municipal administrations would constitute a good job for a better future. Increased efforts to create a political, economic and security climate would make possible the return of the displaced. More detailed discussions focused on selected justice and home affairs issues, in particular issues on politics and the fight against organized crime. Other areas that were discussed in detail were media, telecommunications and transport.

The discussions also covered the measures taken in Kosovo to implement the first recommendations of the European Commission. (Gazeta Koha ditore 26.11.2003 faqe 3)

The third meeting held on November 27 & 28, 2003 represents a further step in the direction of compatibility with reforms towards EU structures. Also, in this meeting, the demonstration of the commitment of UNMIK and the PISG towards the success of the PSA and the implementation of the recommendations formulated within the process was confirmed. In general, the European Commission reiterated the key importance, not only of the adaptation of Kosovo's policy and legislation with the EU, but also of further tightening for the creation of even more efficient administration structures. This meeting mainly focused on trade policy and customs issues. Moreover, key parts of the economic legislation were discussed, such as: the right of enterprises and the protection of intellectual property, in order to help Kosovo to build a modern and suitable legal framework for foreign investments.

During this meeting, the progress made on the previous recommendations was also reviewed, on the basic principles of democracy, the rule of law, key economic reforms and energy policy. European officials asked the Government and UNMIK about the integration of minorities in institutional life. of Kosovo and how they are being integrated. Raising the salaries of civil servants and the issue of their leveling has been another issue in which the European side has been interested.

The fourth meeting was held on May 13 and 14, 2004, for the first time in the presence of the EU member states. This meeting passed in the atmosphere of condemnation of the events that occurred in March of the same year.

UNMIK and PISG reported on the measures taken, in particular to bring those responsible to justice and to rebuild the properties that were damaged or destroyed.

Agriculture and veto-phytosanitary issues were discussed at the expert level. The fifth meeting was held outside Kosovo and the one in Brussels was held on September 17, 2004. In this meeting, the participants discussed issues related to the environment, economic development and Kosovo's participation in regional initiatives such as the Regional Energy Market, the Transportation Network of Southeast Europe and Free Trade Agreements. The meeting also emphasized the need to examine the conditions that contributed to the tragic events of March 2004.

Democracy, the rule of law, the rights of minority communities and local self-government were also important items on the agenda. The European Community, with this symbolic occasion of the meeting in Brussels, gives a clear message about the importance of protecting the rights of all communities in Kosovo.

The sixth meeting was held on February 16, 2005 in Pristina. In this meeting, the leaders of this process on the part of the European Council assessed that the institutions of Kosovo have managed to improve the coordination of their actions and the organizational aspect of the implementation of the recommendations of the European Council. The representative of the EC, Priebe emphasized that the work that Kosovo is doing through the Transition Mechanism will enable Kosovo to be ready for the procedures towards EU membership after the resolution of the final status. (Gazeta Koha ditore 16.02.2005, faqe 2)

The seventh meeting of the MPSA was held in Pristina on May 3, 2005. The topic of discussion at this meeting was mainly the Communiqué of the European Commission "A future for Kosovo" dated April 20, 2005, which was welcomed by the then Government Bajram Kosumin, as well as from UNMIK. The head of the EC directorate for the Western Balkans, Reinhardt Priebe, in this meeting emphasized the progress of cooperation between Kosovo and the EU through these ongoing meetings. "The application of this policy has marked progress.

We have done what we intended to do, so that despite the undefined status, Kosovo does not waste time towards European integration". (see [www.delprn.ec.europa.eu/al/](http://www.delprn.ec.europa.eu/al/))



Referring to economic issues, he expressed his conviction that Kosovar citizens and institutions have already given evidence that many things can be done and achieved even before the status resolution. Part of this meeting was also the signing of the framework agreement with the European Investment Bank between the representatives of this bank and IPVQ/UNMIK

The eighth meeting of the Transitional Stabilization-Association Mechanism of the EU was held in Pristina on December 14, 2005. "The time before us to achieve EU membership is the right and unique time to realize reforms and progress. The process of integration is as important as the final goal itself" - said the Prime Minister of Kosovo Bajram Kosumi.

"We have noticed with pleasure that the European Union has committed itself to an even greater commitment in Kosovo", said the first deputy head of UNMIK, Larry Rossin, in his introductory speech.

The Head of the European Commission's Unit for Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo, Thérèse Sobieski has emphasized that "with the gradual merging of UN standards into the European Partnership, we are creating a monitoring framework, as well as accompanying the development of Kosovo as a stable and multi-ethnic society. This should not be a heavy burden for the Kosovo administration, while cooperation should also be considered where necessary.

The meetings of the Forward Mechanism will continue to be one of the main pillars to ensure a continuous dialogue between the Commission and Kosovo (Kosova në eurozonë. 2006, ADSH). The implementation of the European Partnership and the establishment of future coordination procedures related to the process of Kosovo's integration into the EU were the main points of the agenda of the meeting.

The development of an Action Plan for European Partnership was one of the main tasks that the PISG should carry out, as a concrete step to get closer to the EU. The European Commission has welcomed the Czech's warning to establish an Agency for European Integration as a tool to guide the Government's efforts to achieve this strategic goal. The European Commission has also expressed its satisfaction that it has observed a high level of commitment of the Government to make progress in fulfilling the priorities of the European Partnership.

The tenth meeting was held on July 14, 2006 at a very important moment. When the standards for Kosovo and the priorities for the European Partnership were effectively united in the Kosovo Action Plan for the European Partnership for the year 2006. This plan was set to help Kosovo in its efforts to implement reforms during the status process, as well as ensure that the focus on standards from the point of view of the European perspective for Kosovo continues.

The eleventh meeting of the MPSA was held on November 24, 2006 in Pristina and the focus of the talks was the report of November 8 of that year. The Commission had assessed the progress that Kosovo had made, emphasizing the further transfer of competences to the PISG, and especially the creation of the Ministry of Justice as well as the Ministry of Internal Affairs. While in the economic field, the drafting of medium-term economic policies and the first spending framework, the privatization of social enterprises was evaluated. The commission also highlighted the areas where much greater progress was needed, such as the further development of the justice bodies, as well as more efficient combating of corruption, organized crime and trafficking.

On this occasion, it was mentioned that the concentration of Kosovo's institutions on the issue of status has delayed some important reforms, such as comprehensive reforms in the civil service. The difficult conditions in which minorities continue to live have also been addressed. On March 19, 2007, the next meeting of the MPSA, the twelfth, was held in Pristina. The meeting discussed the political, economic and European standards that Kosovo must fulfill for the alignment with the EU.

The participants of this meeting agreed on a more extended follow-up mechanism that envisages separate meetings according to departments. Government representatives at this meeting presented a report on the European Partnership Action Plan (EPPA) and the Agency for European Integration.

As for the political requirements, the importance of reforms in public administration, rule of law, minority rights and regional cooperation was emphasized in this meeting. From the economic issues, the macro-economic developments were examined, as well as a report was presented regarding the preparation of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and regarding the Strategy of the Development Plan of Kosovo. On the European requirements, the focus of the talks were taxes and customs, the internal market as and energy. The meeting of the thirteenth MPSA was the last meeting held before the declaration of independence of the state of Kosovo, a meeting which was also held in Pristina on November 7, 2007. In this meeting, it was emphasized that the status quo. of Kosovo cannot continue in any way. The EU must definitely take its responsibilities in Kosovo, and the solution of the status for Kosovo is absolutely necessary to be done as soon as possible.

Kosovo has a clear European perspective which is clearly presented in the intensification of the stabilization-association process. Kosovo is reflecting stability in the region. Fighting and preventing crime and all forms of criminality (Maloku, 2015, 2016a, 2016b, 2018, 2021a, 2021b) remain a condition for the Western Balkans and especially for Kosovo. The authors Shabani and Maloku (2019a, 2019b) also analyze the social factors that influence the occurrence of criminality, so by understanding these factors we can better prevent and fight criminality,

### ***Conclusion***

Since the declaration of independence, relations between Kosovo and the EU have progressed at a slow pace. The process of European integration should not be considered a bureaucratic process managed only by state institutions. The engagement of all interested parties in planning and implementation of policies is crucial, this is because the integration agenda causes deep reforms in all spheres of society. As an essential element of good governance in general, as well as for the European Integration process in particular, this strategy emphasizes the importance of the involvement of stakeholders in the planning of policies in Kosovo. The government must take all necessary measures to create as many more opportunities for their development. Kosovo aimed that by 2020, non-state actors contribute significantly to the design, implementation and monitoring of policies.

A great misunderstanding had appeared in the international community, during the years 1991-1999, after the "Dayton Peace" in 1995, where there was the opinion that:

Kosovo's independence would destabilize the Balkans. This was a wrong perception from both the political and the security point of view.

The answer to this wrong perception would be: Kosovo's independence has stabilized the entire Balkans.

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