

Joint Operational Conclusions 3rd PAR Special Group

Pristina, 01 June 2015

1. Introduction

The third meeting of the Special group on Public Administration reform took place in Pristina on 01 June 2015.

The opening remarks emphasised the importance of an effective functioning public administration for Kosovo and PAR's crucial role in delivering this. The overall purpose of the Special Group will help raise the visibility of PAR and ensure that it receives adequate focus.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister for Public Administration, Mr Mahir Yagcilar, and the Head of Political Section of the EU Office, Mr Thomas Gnocchi.

Kosovo authorities were represented by institutions of the Government of Kosovo and other responsible institutions and agencies (please see annex for a detailed list of participants).

The European Union was represented by the EU Special Representative/Head of Eu Office in Kosovo, Mr Samuel Žbogar, Mr. Thomas Gnnochi, EUO Head of the Political Section, , Ms. Farina Ahäuser, EC Political Co-desk for Kosovo; Ms. Albina Duraku Nura, EC task Manager for PAR and EU Integration Ms. Ritva Heikkinen, Mr. Felix Rathje, Policy Officer. Mr. Keit Kasamets, OECD/SIGMA, Head of policy making, strategy and reform also participated in the meeting.

2. PAR Strategic Framework and Policy Coordination.

- The government will adopt the National Development Strategy (NDS) by September 2015 after inter-institutional and public consultations. The NDS needs to be aligned with the Government Programme and the Economic Reform Programme.
- The Ministry for Public Administration will finalise the PAR Modernisation Strategy 2015-20 and its Action Plan 2015-17 and have final drafts ready by end-June and adopt by the latest in September after public consultations. The draft strategy needs to include clear objectives, targets and performance indicators. The costing of actions need to be clearly defined on the basis of the action plan.
- The continuous functioning of the Department for the Management of the Public Administration Strategy needs to be ensured by timely filling the position of the director of the department.
- The government will adopt and implement the Integrated Planning System, which needs to set universal rules for sectoral strategies and their components, supported by efficient coordination structures. In particular, clear provisions for the use of

performance indicators and the costing of activities in planning documents need to be ensured.

- The Government will ensure proper administrative capacities for the implementation of the IPS, including the Strategic Planning Office of the OPM.
- The costing for implementation of the PAR Strategic Framework needs to be included in the budget for 2016, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and needs to be reflected in any revision of the 2015 budget.
- There is one Ministerial Council on PAR, which serves as the central steering committee in charge for driving forward the PAR agenda. We recommend that the duplication of work between various Councils is to be avoided.
- On the basis of three assessments (SIGMA baseline measurement, ongoing PEFA assessment and IMF TADAT assessment on revenue administration), the Ministry of Finance will develop a draft Public Financial Management programme. It will submit the first draft for comments in October 2015 with a view of adopting the PFM programme in the first half of 2016.

3. SPD: Preparations for Sector Budget Support

- The Ministry of European Integration will complete the Sector Planning Document by end-June and submit it to the European Commission.
- The completion of the PAR strategic and operational framework and the finalisation of costing of reforms is the basis of determining the financial and overall scope of sector budget support. The European Commission recommends to focus on PAR in the first SBS programme.

4. Service delivery

- The Assembly to proceed swiftly with the adoption of the Law on General Administrative Procedures to ensure a basis for simplification and modernisation of service delivery in line with European standards.
- Upon adoption of the Law on General Administrative Procedures, the European Commission will ensure support for its implementation through IPA 2014.

5. Accountability

- The Law on Organisation of Public Administration needs to be finalised by the government by the end of 2015 to complement the existing Law on State Administration. Clear lines of accountability and distinctions between administrative bodies will be established regardless of the timeframe of the law.
- The government will develop minimum standards on public consultation and make functional the civil society online platform by the end of 2015. It will ensure that legislation, policies and strategies are publically consulted at an early stage and systematic feedback to civil society on their recommendations is provided. Care needs

to be taken to ensure that consultations have an effective place also during fast-track procedures.

- The government will finalise the new Law on the Auditor General and the National Audit Office by the end of June 2015, which should provide for functional, operational and financial independence of the General Auditor.
- The European Commission encourages the Assembly and the Ombudsperson to develop mechanisms to further improve the visibility and follow-up to the recommendations of the Ombudsperson. The Government commits to engage constructively and follow up to the Ombudspersons recommendations.
- In order to allow the Ombudsperson to carry out its mandate, the Ministry of Public Administration will relocate the Ombudsperson's Office to the Constitutional Court premises as per MPAs Decision. This will be done well in time before the lease expires in August 2015.
- The government will guarantee the legal basis for the salaries of the Ombudsperson, including until the entry into force of the law on salaries, from the budget of Kosovo in line with European practice. The financial independence of the Ombudsperson will be guaranteed in the future.

6. Public Service and Human Resources Management

- The implementation of the job catalogue adopted in March 2015 and the job classification will be ensured as a matter of priority. Due to their importance for overall improvement of human resources management, the government will ensure sufficient funding for their implementation in the 2016 budget.
- The government will ensure the proper functioning, extension to all institutions and interoperability of the HRMIS by the end of 2015.
- The government will ensure that the draft Law on Salaries paid by the budget of Kosovo will incorporate the Law on Salaries of Civil Servants to avoid disruptions in implementation of a new civil service salary and grading system.
- The government will ensure sufficient funding and premises for the Kosovo Institute of Public Administration to ensure the ongoing professionalization of the public service.

7. Next meeting

- It was agreed that the 4th PAR Special Group meeting will be held in Brussels in December 2015.