STATEHOOD
GOOD GOVERNANCE
EURO-ATLANTIC PERSPECTIVE

YEAR
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF KOSOVO
In the Parliamentary elections of 17 November 2007, the Democratic Party of Kosovo came out as the first political force in the country. The head of the Democratic Party of Kosovo, Mr. Hashim Thaçi, who was nominated for the post of Prime Minister during the electoral campaign, was the leader who received the biggest number of votes in Kosovo. In the Assembly of Kosovo, on 9 January 2008, Mr. Hashim Thaçi was elected Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo. He presented the before the Kosovo Assembly members the composition of his Cabinet of Ministers as well as the concept for new governance. Prime Minister Thaçi received the confidence of two thirds of
the members of the Assembly of Kosovo.
The Government of the Republic of Kosovo, established by PDK-LDK coalition, and other partners, is a result of parliamentary elections, held in November 2007. Within a one year time period, this Government established a new positive, consensual and modern climate as well as a climate of the successful management of processes for a better future for Kosovo and its citizens, for a European future.
The Government managed to overcome the most important challenge in the history of people of Kosovo, by bringing centuries’ long ambitions to a close with the declaration of Kosovo as an independent, sovereign and democratic state.
Kosovo’s independence, this new and permanent reality, up to date, is recognized by more than fifty states. The top priority of Government of Kosovo continues to be the intensification of economic development.
The Government of Kosovo will continue to be focused on the following areas: The Rule of Law, Education, Transport, Energy and Mining, Agriculture, Tax Policies and Administration as well as Financial Sector.

The establishment of the Ministry of the Kosovo Security Force and the creation of the Security Force itself are crucial steps in the modern history of armed forces, for the accomplishment of contemporary standards. The achievement of these standards will create a safe basis for full integration of Kosovo within Euro-Atlantic structures.
The Government of the Republic of Kosovo has established the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the aim of intensifying diplomatic relations.
In the field of good governance, the Government of Kosovo was committed to: Public Administration Reform, Public Finance Management, Fighting Corruption and Improving the Execution of Capital Expenditures.
Within the framework of Constitutional obligations, special attention was paid to: decentralization, the field of security, the establishment of new institutions and minorities.
Social welfare and health services continue to be a concern of the Government of Kosovo. Despite this, the measures undertaken by the Government had an
impact on the continuous improvement of pension, health and other social transfer services. The will, the goal and the final destination of Kosovo is European Union. As a result of the work of Government, the EU confirmed the first step of Kosovo towards the European Union, referred to as the feasibility study, which is expected to be completed by autumn of 2009. The Adaptation of Government policies with the EU ones is a necessary process in order to realize the long-term goals of the Government, but simultaneously the aspiration of people of Kosovo for European integration.
STATEHOOD
STATEHOOD

• Kosovo is an independent and sovereign state.

• On February 17th of this year, Kosovo declared independence.

• From Independence Day on, Kosovo has been internationally recognized by 54 states.

• From the 27 member countries of the EU, 22 countries have recognized Kosovo.

• From the 26 member countries of NATO, 22 countries have recognized Kosovo.

• 3 out of the 5 member countries of the UN Security Council have recognized Kosovo.

• 35 out of the 56 member countries of OSCE have recognized Kosovo.

• 33 out of the 47 countries of the European Council have recognized Kosovo.

• 8 out of the 57 member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference have recognized Kosovo.

• 7 countries of the G7, respectively 7 countries of the G8 (G7 + Russia) have recognized Kosovo.

• The countries which have recognized Kosovo potentially constitute 70.9% of the world’s GDP.
THE DECLARATION OF THE INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN STATE OF KOSOVO
We, the democratically elected leaders of our people, hereby declare Kosovo to be an independent and sovereign state. This declaration reflects the will of our people and it is in full accordance with the recommendations of UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and his Comprehensive Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement. We declare Kosovo to be a democratic, secular and multi-ethnic Republic, guided by the principles of nondiscrimination and equal protection under the law. We shall protect and promote the rights of all communities in Kosovo and create the conditions necessary for their effective participation in political and decision-making processes.

(Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence read by the Prime Minister of the Kosovo Government, Hashim Thaçi, in the extraordinary meeting of the Kosovo Assembly on February 17th, 2008)
The Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo is our identity – our people fought for a long time for freedom

The Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo is our will – because it stems from the will of the people of Kosovo. Kosovo is for the first time in its political history adopting Constitution in accordance with the will of its people. The Constitution is our hope – because it opens a perspective for a better future for us. The Constitution is our Trust because, the democratic societies are held together by their trust in the Constitution. The new Constitution is the value of our freedom, because in democratic societies, the greatest amount of patriotism is Trust in the Constitution, respect of and abiding by the Constitution. The Constitution is our identity – because our people have fought for freedom. This Constitution is the document that guarantees Freedom. We have sacrificed a long time for this day. This Constitution is the document, the seal, of our state. We have made many striving and worthy efforts for dignity. This Constitution guarantees the dignity of all the citizens of Kosovo. It is the first time that Kosovo is adopting its Constitution, without fear for anyone and with equal and advanced opportunities for all.

(Excerpts from the speech of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, on the occasion of signing of the Constitution of Kosovo at the National Library, on April 7th, 2008)
Now it is clear to all of us that the overall peace and stability cannot be built without universal historical ideas and people that make them come true. Freedom is the source and any meaning and value; it is an absolute precondition of any reason for existence. Today as well, with this solemn act of signing the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, we are appreciating the war for freedom and peace and we are taking on the responsibility to build the future for all the people living in our independent and democratic state. Our Constitution is a Constitution of opportunities, not of obstacles. If we have achieved this, then we have succeeded in reaching our goal, in the service of which, we will always be. We have openly and strongly protected the values which should rule our state in accordance with the civilized world, and on which to build our future.

(Excerpts from the speech of Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the head of the Constitutional Commission, Hajredin Kuçi, at the ceremony of the official signing of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo)
Since January of 2008, Law No. 02/L-2 on martyrs’ families, the disabled, veterans, members of the KLA and the families of civilian victims of the war has begun to be implemented in its entirety. Through this law, 11,525 cases have benefited from the right to a pension; while the total value of this paid pension was 16 million 340 thousand and 280 euros.

In health rehabilitation, based on Government of Kosovo decision No. 10/22 dated 30.05.2008; 800 disabled people from the KLA and 200 martyrs’ families were treated, while 159 disabled people were accommodated in the Rehabilitation Baths of Peja and Kllokot. Likewise Government Decision No. 03/45 dated 14.11.2008 on heating and food was implemented for the Association of KLA Invalids. For the associations from the war, the Association of Political Prisoners, Calls of Mothers, the League of the Civil Disabled of the War and the 27 April 1999-Meja Association; financial support was earmarked in the value of 113 thousand and 850 euros.
The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, together with the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Fatmir Sejdiu, and the Minister of the Kosovo Security Force, Fehmi Mujota, had a joint meeting with United States Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, the Prime Minister, Hashim Thaçi, thanked Gates, the American government and the president, George Bush, for their continuous support of Kosovo.

“The relations of the state of Kosovo with the United States of America will be special and we will continue to implement the necessary democratic criteria to be integrated into Euro Atlantic structures,” The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi stated.

Prime minister, Mr. Hashim Thaçi has stated that the independence of Kosovo has brought peace to the region. He also added that the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is nourishing good relations with its neighbors.

“We believe,” Prime Minister Thaçi said, “that we will have good relations with Serbia as well, as two independent nations.”

(Prishtina, October 7th, 2008)
The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, together with Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Enver Hoxhaj, have paid a visit to two Prishtina, elementary Schools, “Ismail Qemali” and “Hasan Prishtina.” Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi talked to the students, teachers, and the educational personnel of these two schools about the great and century long sacrifices of the people of Kosovo on their road towards achieving independence.

“From this Sunday the bell of Kosovo’s independence has rang. The new country of Kosovo has started with international recognitions, a pattern unseen in the history of recognitions for the countries that have been recognized. This is a merit of Kosovo’s citizens. This is a merit of our sacrifice. This is a result of our just pro-western and pro-American policy,” Prime Minister Thaçi stated, emphasizing that Kosovo is a part of European family and a special ally of the United States of America.

Prime Minister Thaçi told the students that they should be proud of their country because from now on they are equal with all the children of the democratic world.

Prime Minister Thaçi expressed his gratitude to all the teachers, who with their great sacrifice and under oppressive conditions, have worked with determination for the education and upbringing of Kosovo children and the road towards independence has been one that bares their contribution as well.

(Prishtina, February 19th, 2008)
The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi hosted a group of young men who are the initiators of the “Newborn” independence monument, a group lead by Mr. Fisnik Ismaili. Prime Minister Thaçi said that he was happy to meet all the young women and men ‘who make all of us be proud of the day of the proclamation of independence, in our new country, with the new beginning, with the new birth, with new perspectives and new responsibility’. “Their idea has flared all the world media and made them all aware that Kosovo has declared its independence, that this is a newborn, a new country with guaranteed perspective in the hands of young people,” stated Prime Minister Thaçi. On the other hand, the originator of the independence monument, Mr. Fisnik Ismaili, has thanked the Prime Minister of the Government of Kosovo for the support he has given to make this project happen, which

has become a symbol of remembrance of the day the independence of Kosovo was declared.

(Prishtina, March 1st, 2008)
KOSOVO
WITH A STATE IDENTITY
The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, participated in the first meeting of the jury that has been set up to select the state symbols of the country of Kosovo. Prime Minister Thaçi has commended the selection jury and offered them his full support for the good progress of their work. He has asked the members of the jury to work without stopping until they have finally chosen the new symbols of Kosovo. Among the jury members, there are representatives of all political bodies represented in the Parliament, representatives of minority communities as well as representatives from the academic community who in the coming days will make the final selection of Kosovo’s symbols. The final proposals will be sent to the Parliament of Kosovo for approval.

(Prishtina, February 1st, 2008)
The spirit, the mind, the idea and the hand of Kosovo’s former freedom fighter has designed the new symbol of Kosovo

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, in congratulating the designer of the flag and state logo of the Republic of Kosovo, Muhamer Ibrahimi, said that he feels very good since the spirit, the mind, the sacrifice, the idea and the ideal of the hand of Kosovo’s former freedom fighter from the Kosovo Liberation Army has presented the design of the new Kosovo symbol, the new state flag of Kosovo which will be forever waving at the United Nations and all over the world.

“Muhamer has done a marvelous job in an extraordinary professional competition. His ideal of the war for freedom is casting another victory even in the battle for designing the symbols of the independent state of Kosovo,” stated Prime Minister Thaçi. The designer, Mr. Ibrahimi, has presented Prime Minister Thaçi with the first copy of the new designed flag of the Republic of the independent state of Kosovo.

(Prishtina, February 23rd, 2008)
On February 17th, our people have celebrated with dignity; calmly and proudly, the declaration of the independence of Kosovo by its legitimate institutions. It was entirely a natural development, because our citizens were embodied with freedom since June of 1999, when KLA, our people and NATO freed Kosovo. The values of our ancient civilization, the deep spirit of tolerance, the high level of emancipation and democratic culture were unfolded in front of the world. And today, on the tenth anniversary of the KLA Epopee, Kosovo already has two very important documents: the Declaration of Independence, a document which enters the golden treasury of the history of our people, a document that declares Kosovo an independent and sovereign nation. On the tenth anniversary of the KLA Epopee, Kosovo has its highest legal document, the Constitution, which defines it as a Democratic Republic, unique and inalienable. On the tenth anniversary of the KLA Epopee, Kosovo is an internationally recognized country. The Kosovo of our dreams now is a country of unlimited opportunities for all of its citizens. This is our debt to the fallen that we are honoring today. This is our debt to the future generations of the Republic of Kosovo. We are very proud for our past. The values of KLA are national and political values of all, values and merits of all Albanians wherever they may live.

(Excerpts of the speech given by the Prime Minister of the Government of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, in the tenth anniversary Academy of the KLA Epopee on March 6th, 2008)
Whilst those around us achieved their aspirations of creating a state one or two centuries earlier, the twentieth century was a century of oppression for Albanians. Thanks to the war and political vision of the KLA and civil resistance, Kosovo transformed the course of history. These dreams and sacrifices broadened the horizon of a century of freedom. The twenty first century is the century of Albanians’ integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions. The century of Independent, Free, Sovereign and Democratic Kosovo. Fehmi Lladrovci and Xhevë Krasniqi-Lladrovci, as well as other individuals and fighters were a model for winning the spiritual and moral battle, the military and political battle against those in power. This characteristic of theirs is with us in every step, every decision we take. So I am proud that, together with our international friends, we have concluded a process which an entire generation gave their entire existence to.
Prime Minister Thaçi unveils the border sign, “Welcome to the Republic of Kosovo”, at the border point between Kosovo and Serbia.

This border sign symbolizes the state sign of the border of the newest state, the country of Kosovo, it is a sign that separates the past from the future and the opening of integration perspectives from isolation,” said Prime Minister Thaçi at the occasion of unveiling of the border sign “Welcome to the Republic of Kosovo”, at the border point of Merdar, between Kosovo and Serbia.

(Merdar, March 9th, 2009)
Prime Minister Thaçi presents the first passport of the Republic of Kosovo

On this occasion, Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi presented a Kosovo citizen, Teuta Begolli, with the first passport of the Republic of Kosovo. Prime Minister Thaçi said that this was a historic day and a new stage for our country. “This is a historic day and a new phase for Kosovo. From today on, the citizens of Kosovo have their own identity. He/she is a resident, a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo, for which we have sacrificed a great deal,” said Prime Minister Thaçi, adding that the new state identity will be advanced and shaped on the secured way towards integration in NATO and EU. The passports will prove the state identity for the citizens of Kosovo and the equipment of our citizens with this document is evidence on the road towards building the country,” said Prime Minister Thaçi. “We are finalizing the completion of our state. Today marks a new phase that is the final separation from foreign identities that our citizens have had. From now on the resident of Kosovo, the citizen of Kosovo has his/her own state identity, he/she is a resident and a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo, for which we have made great sacrifices throughout the years,” said the prime minister.

(Prishtina, July 30th, 2008)
Ministers Pajaziti and Beqiri present the new identity cards of the Republic of Kosovo

The ceremony organized at the Prishtina Municipal Assembly was attended by the Minister for Internal Affairs, Zenun Pajaziti and the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Valton Beqiri, the President of the Municipal Assembly, Isa Mustafa, as well as representatives of the embassies of the United States of America and Switzerland, as well as representatives of EULEX and UNMIK.

The Minister on Internal Affairs, Zenun Pajaziti, said that “he was happy that the equipment with identity cards is being done at the right time, at the time when more and more of our citizens have a need to prove their own and their country’s identity.”

The Minister on Internal Affairs also talked about the efforts being made for the recognition of the Republic of Kosovo from other countries.

“Besides sending a special ‘thank you’ to the countries that have extended their recognitions yesterday, such as the Republic of Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia, we also send them the message that the state of Kosovo and its institutions will do everything possible so that its citizens are equipped with quality documents within European standards and that we will be equal partners in achieving these standards, not only for travel documents, but for overall security,” said Minister Pajaziti.
Ministers Limaj and Pajaziti present new drivers with driver licenses of the Republic of Kosovo

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, in a ceremony held at the Prishtina Assembly building, presented the first ever driver licenses of the Republic of Kosovo. The Minister of Transport and Telecommunications, Fatmir Limaj, the Minister for the Internal Affairs, Zenun Pajaziti, and other officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs attended the ceremony. The Minister of Transport and Telecommunications, Fatmir Limaj, said that it was a special day for the category of citizens who are becoming new drivers and who have the privilege that previous ones could not have. “Our citizens today are being presented with the new driver – licenses of the Republic of Kosovo,” said Mr. Limaj.

“I would like to congratulate Minister Pajaziti and his staff for the work that they have done, for the quality of the documents that are produced today. It is a great satisfaction to see these documents being handed out today. We from the Ministry of Transport wish that citizens be more cautious on the roads of Kosovo in order to respect first of all their lives and the lives of others,” said Mr. Limaj.

Minister Pajaziti also pointed out that “this is a noticeable day because of the variety of documents that are very much needed for Kosovo’s citizens is being completed. Today we are issuing another important document which proves our country’s identity,” said Minister Pajaziti.

(Prishtina, October 10th, 2008)
THE DIPLOMACY OF THE STATE OF KOSOVO
The formation of the Foreign Ministry

The government of the Republic of Kosovo in its tenth meeting, held on March 7th 2008, has adopted the second part of ten draft projects that are part of Ahtisaari’s Plan of 34 laws overall. In the form of a legal package, the draft-law on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diplomatic Service of the Republic of Kosovo were adopted (Office of the Prime Minister).

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo nominates its Foreign Minister

(Prishtina, April 3rd, 2008)

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo has nominated today Skender Hyseni as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Until the transition period, the nominated Minister of Foreign Affairs will be in charge of establishing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for carrying out other relevant duties.

After the conclusion of the interim period, the nominated Minister will be the Minister of Foreign Affairs in full charge. This means the formal opening of the embassies and the appointment of ambassadors in the countries previously identified.
The Government of the Republic of Kosovo proposes to the President 11 Individuals as Charge D’affaires in Kosovo’s Diplomatic Missions

The list of eleven candidates who will serve as charge d’affaires in Kosovo’s diplomatic Missions was approved in the 32nd meeting of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo.

The Prime minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, has said that the proposed individuals have very high professional and national credibility, with the clear vision for the policies and the diplomacy of Kosovo.

Prishtina, August 29th, 2008

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo is honored to propose the first individuals who will serve as charge d’affaires in Kosovo’s Diplomatic Missions in ten different countries, which is an important step for the building of Kosovo’s diplomatic service.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, has said that the proposed individuals have very high professional and national credibility, with the clear vision for the policies and the diplomacy of Kosovo.
Prime Minister Thaçi has stressed that the vision of the foreign policy and diplomacy of Kosovo is its integration in NATO and EU as well as the building of good relations with all its neighbors.

At the same meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs has presented the proposed 11 individuals as charge d’affaires in Kosovo’s diplomatic Missions, pointing out that this proposed list came as a result of extended and continuous consultations among Kosovo’s institutions.

The proposed individuals are:

1. Washington DC (USA) - Mr. Avni Spahiu
2. London (The United Kingdom) - Mr. Muhamet Hamiti
3. Paris (France) - Mr. Muhamedin Kullashi
4. Berlin (Germany) - Mr. Vilson Mirdita
5. Rome (Italy) - Mr. Albert Prenkaj
6. Brussels (Belgium) - Mr. Ilir Dugolli
7. Ankara (Turkey) - Mr. Bekim Sejdiu
8. Vienna (Austria) - Mr. Sabri Kiçmari
9. Bern (Switzerland) - Mr. Naim Mala
10. Tirana (Albania) - Mr. Gazmend Pula

This proposed list was then sent to the President of the Republic of Kosovo for the final decree.

The building of the foreign policy

The building of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kosovo is one of the most important duties of the new state of Kosovo after its declaration of independence on February 17th, 2008.

The Republic of Kosovo aims to contribute in building and strengthening of the international order, based on friendly relations among nation states, the respect to values of freedom, human dignity and principles of democracy.

The Republic of Kosovo aims to enact a foreign policy which will be in accord to the aims of people of Kosovo for the Euro-Atlantic integrations, keeping and strengthening relations with friendly countries, establishing good relations with states in the region, as well as reaching the status of a trustful partner.
in fight against the threats to international security. General strategic orientation of Kosovo’s foreign policy is consolidation of the state of Kosovo. Firstly, foreign policy of the Republic of Kosovo will be oriented towards a continuous advancement of international position of Kosovo and the strengthening of the international support for the recognition of Kosovo sovereignty. Promotion and a continuous strengthening of Kosovo image in the international arena is another strategic aim of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kosovo. The positive image helps the strengthening of the Kosovo position in the international arena and strengthening the strategic partnership with the most powerful and democratic countries of the world. Economical development is a key factor to influence the international position of the state of Kosovo. Thus an important component of the Republic of Kosovo’s foreign policy is the promotion of the Kosovar economical interests in the world. Kosovo foreign policy will serve as an instrument to enhance economical cooperation with various international partners and to attract foreign investors to invest to the Republic of Kosovo, based on the principles of the market economy and free competition.
The Government of Kosovo has applied for membership in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank

With an aim of the further advancing of international relations and building a common interest with other countries, there is an increased activity for Kosovo’s integration in the international organizations and institutions, while preserving a very close link with present international organizations in Kosovo. Efforts are being made for Kosovo to become a part of regional initiatives. In the process of integrations within the European Union, the Republic of Kosovo enjoys the status of a country as a potential candidate. The Government of Kosovo in its direct meetings with countries that are members of the European Union as well as with institutions of the European Union, has lobbied for the advancement of the status of the Republic of Kosovo in further process of European integrations. During this time through direct meetings or various correspondences the Government of Kosovo has advocated for the possibility that the Foreign Ministry of Kosovo have a more active role in the process of European integrations. The deepening of the cooperation with NATO and full membership of the Republic of Kosovo in this organization is a priority of the foreign policy of Kosovo and a part of its continuous efforts. The Republic of Kosovo has already applied for membership in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The representatives of the Ministry of foreign affairs, based on a decision of the Prime Minister, have been appointed leaders and members respectively of a subgroup for the preparation of the legal instruments for the membership in the economic subgroup.
A NEW STATE WITH NEW FRIENDS

The Diplomacy of the State of Kosovo
THE SECURITY FORCE AND ITS HISTORIC MISSION
Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi meets the recently nominated Minister for the Security Force; Fehmi Mujota

Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi met Fehmi Mujota, who was recently named as Minister for the Security Force and to whom he handed his nomination as the head of the Ministry for the Security Force. Prime Minister Thaçi congratulated Minister Fehmi Mujota on his appointment to this position and wished him success in the work and duties specified by the Constitution and the law on the Kosovar Security Force. The Prime Minister said that he considered that the results achieved in the past by Fehmi Mujota were evidence of his high levels of commitment and sense of responsibility for moving the political process forward in Kosovo. “This fact makes us confident that his appointment as the head of the Ministry for the Security Force will contribute to success in building security structures in Kosovo,” said Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi. Minister Mujota expressed his gratitude for the confidence placed in him and said that he was committed to working with the greatest commitment in his position as Minister of the Security Force. The appointment of the Minister of the Security Force completes the governance capacity and will accelerate the building and structuring of the Kosovar Security Force.

(Prishtina August 5th, 2008)
On December 19th, 2008, the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, proposed Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi as Commander of the Kosovar Security Force (KSF), and on December 20th, 2008, in the presence of the KSF Minister, Fehmi Mujota, the President of Kosovo, Fatmir Sejdiu, formally announced General Sylejman Selimi to be Commander of the KSF.

The uniform, emblems and ranks of the Kosovar Security Force

The Kosovar Security Force (KSF) has a distinct badge and ranks, designed exclusively for the new professional Security Force. The badge and ranks will be carried on green camouflage uniform with a black beret, a donation from the United States of America. Specified in the Law for the Kosovar Security Force, article 15, there are 9 levels for KSF officers and 6 for Other Ranks. The officer ranks are from Second Lieutenant (Nëntogeri) to Lieutenant General (Gjen-eral-lejtënant), and Other Ranks go from soldier (ushtari) to standard-bearer (flamurtari).
Prime Minister Thaçi: the Kosovo Security Force will be all Kosovar citizens’ force with full international support

“The Kosovar Security Force will be a multi-ethnic force made up of all of Kosovo’s citizens as well as being a force with full international support which will work in accordance with the Republic of Kosovo constitution and with NATO standards,” said the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, after his meeting with the former OSCE ambassador to Kosovo, William Walker.

(Prishtina, January 20th, 2009)
The New Kosovo power plant

The “New Kosovo” project for building a new power plant is planned to include an installation capacity for approximately 2000 MW and an extension of cable trenches as well working with existing trenches and generating infrastructure. The project’s primary aim is to provide for domestic consumption of electricity and the export of surplus to the regional energy market. So far, four acceptable tenders have been selected in a transparent competitive process. Following the submission of the Call for Proposals to the four approved tenders in the second quarter of 2009, it is expected that the selected tender will be announced in the third quarter of 2009 and the financial conclusion of the project will be in the middle of 2010. The process of preparing competitive tenders for building new generating capacity, possible renovation of existing generator infrastructure and trenches has continued during 2008. As part of the framework for social and environmental protective measures, there has been:

* Detailed investigation of maintenance procedures in the project zone
* Founding of Forums for Community Development
* Preparation of Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
* Spatial Development Plan for the special Zone (draft)
* Manual of procedures for evaluation of Environmental Impact and related training
* Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessment
* Terms of Reference for Social Assessment
* Terms of Reference for Action Plan for Evictions
* Holding of public hearings on the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment

As part of the legal and regulatory framework:

* Diagnostic report on the legal framework
* Secondary legislation for the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
The energy sector is the most important for Kosovo’s Economic Development Strategy

The Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, took part in the meeting of the Steering Committee for the “New Kosovo” project which discussed the project’s framework document and the directions of the project’s development. “The realization of this project,” said Prime Minister Thaçi, “will be in accordance with the norms for environmental protection in Kosovo, as well as creating new jobs. In collaboration with international partners, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo will assume the appropriate responsibilities,” said Prime Minister Thaçi, and he also expressed his gratitude to the donors who were supporting its realization.

(Prishtina, October 27th, 2008)
The Government of the Republic of Kosovo has approved the decision to develop the “Hydrocentral Zhur” project

Chaired by Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo held its 42nd regular meeting in which it approved the decision for the development of the project to build ‘Hydrocentral Zhur’ and a range of decisions from areas of its constitutional activity. The Government took the decision to develop the “Hydrocentral Zhur” project on the basis of a private-public partnership model. The Government based this decision on the 2005-2010 Kosovo Energy Strategy and the duties originating in the Treaty on Establishing an Energy Community in South Eastern Europe, by the terms of which EU policies have to be implemented for the energy sector, requiring that by 2020, at least 20% of energy produced must be from renewable sources (water, wind, biofuels, etc.). Kosovo currently produces only 3% of its energy from renewable sources. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of this project and gave the Kosovar Government’s commitment to its implementation. According to predictions, it is expected that approximately 300 million euros will be invested in the project to produce approximately 300 MVh of electricity. An Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee will be created to implement this project and will review project development and report regularly to the Kosovar Government on its progress.

(Prishtina, October 31st, 2008)
Under the auspices of the Ministry of Public Services of the Republic of Kosovo and under the slogan ‘the new state with e-government,’ an international conference, ‘E-government in Kosovo’ was held from May 12th-13th 2008, in Prishtina. Representatives from Albania, Slovenia and Estonia took part in the conference. This conference was an important step in identifying the challenges and opportunities for e-government in Kosovo, the achievements of other countries in this area and the effects this would have for public administration and the institutions of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo with the modernization of e-government. Hosting this conference, the Minister of Public Services, Professor Dr. Arsim Bajrami, gave particular thanks to the local and international political representatives, IT experts and others present and said that this conference was part of realizing the Kosovar Government’s reform agenda for achieving the standards for European integration, which aim to secure powerful political and professional support for implementing the e-government project in Kosovo. It is planned that key objectives in relation to efficiency, creation of an efficient, professional public administration, government transparency, policy-making of all public services and a digital data system will be achieved with e-government.
E-Government as part of the necessary process of Public Administration reform

I have great pleasure in being with you for the promotion of the 2009-2015 E-Government Strategy 2009-2015, an important document for improving services for our citizens. The Republic of Kosovo is a new country with a wide range of developmental needs. Our aim is to achieve our developmental priorities faster. One of the priorities of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is Public Administration Reform, with a particular focus on e-government as part of the necessary process of reforming Public Administration in Kosovo. The people and businesses of this country will be offered more efficient services through electronic government or ‘e-government’. By using e-government, the people and businesses of this country and the government itself, will have services which are effective and very fast; as well as remote access to services from everywhere, a stimulus to economic and social development, opportunities to develop skills, services available at all times and presentation of national achievements, etc. As an active participant in regional and European development, the Republic of Kosovo will strive to ensure that it will be an important part of the region and of Europe in e-government and Information Technology.”

THE FIRST BUDGET OF THE STATE OF KOSOVO
We are working hard, every day; to build the good governance you deserve

“During 2009, Kosovo will spend one billion and ninety four million euros on capital investment, education, social welfare and other programs for the citizens of Kosovo. New jobs will be created. Salaries will rise. We will prepare our children to compete in the global employment market. “We are working hard, every day, to build the good governance you deserve. Today I feel proud of our joint achievements. During the preparation of the budget I asked everyone to be mindful of the needs and requests of every citizen of Kosovo; I asked them to be mindful of the global financial crisis and to find ways to protect our citizens from its impact.

“We have worked together to guarantee that every cent will go where it should. I am very pleased that we have all worked towards this, not as politicians, not as members of political parties, but as people of this country. This is how we have shown the people of Kosovo, how we have shown our international partners, that democracy and freedom can and do show results in Kosovo.”

(Excerpts from the speech of Hashim Thaçi, Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, on the passing of the Law for the 2009 Budget. Prishtina, December 19th, 2008)
Hashim Thaçi, the Prime Minister of Kosovo, was honored with the international prize for “Peace Ambassador” by the Universal Peace Federation. “We have waged a war for peace, we have won that war and today we are achieving peace, on the threshold of the formalization of independence. Kosovo needs peace, stability, understanding and tolerance as at no other time,” said the Prime Minister. The head of the Universal Federation for Peace, Mr. Yong Cheol Song, expressed his particular pleasure in awarding the international “Peace Ambassador” prize to Mr. Thaçi, who he said he saw as a promoter of the values of peace and stability in the Balkans region. This prize is awarded to world leaders who promote and contribute to fixing the ideals of peace and stability in different parts of the world.
The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, pays homage to the grave of the late President Rugova

“Coming today to President Ibrahim Rugova’s gravesite is the first homage in the independent, sovereign and democratic Kosovo. It is an appreciation for his personality in the process of his continued engagement for Kosovo’s independence,” said Prime Minister Mr. Hashim Thaçi. Prime Minister Thaçi also said that he has ‘worked for a long time with president Rugova in order to achieve what we have today.’ He said that Kosovo institutions will continue with even greater determination in order to achieve a greater success and to respect the past commitments that have been occurring in Kosovo.

“The legacy of President Rugova will be judged by history, a legacy which will be respected by the institutions and the citizens of Kosovo,” said the prime minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Hashim Thaçi.

(Prishtina, January 21, 2009)
THEY REPRESENT KOSOVO IN THE WORLD
In a meeting, Hashim Thaçi, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, stressed that from now on, all Kosovar sportsmen and sportswomen in all international competitions would take part as Republic of Kosovo nationals with their state symbols. “I had the honor to wish the Kosovar table tennis players a safe journey and success in the World Table Tennis Championship. I am sure that these sportsmen and sportswomen will return to Kosovo decorated with medals. I have the honor and the pleasure to hand them the state flag of Kosovo, which our sportsmen and sportswomen will compete under in this international competition,” said Prime Minister Thaçi, saying that from now on, all opportunities are open in international competitions for Kosovar sportspeople. The head of the Kosovar table tennis player delegation said that they were especially honored that they would raise the state flag of Kosovo on behalf of Kosovar sportspeople among the 150 countries taking part in the World Table Tennis Championships.

(Prishtina, February 22nd, 2008)
Mr. Hashim Thaçi, the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, met the management and footballers of the “Prishtina” club. The Prime Minister congratulated them on their Kosovar football championship title. “The footballers of the ‘Prishtina’ club have shown commitment, professionalism, and responsibility in the game; they have shown that they are the best and they deserved to be the winners of this championship,” said Prime Minister Thaçi, adding that now that Kosovo is a state, there will be better opportunities for Kosovar sport and football in particular; Kosovar talent, proven Kosovar teams, as part of international competitions and why not even winners of European and world cups. “I believe in the talent of these men, I believe in all the younger generations’ talent, who deserve a secure future and therefore now, with the new reality of independent Kosovo, there will be full commitment and support so that Kosovar sport can be a part of international competitions and in the near future, part of the Olympic games too,” said Prime Minister Thaçi.

(Prishtina, June 4th, 2008)
Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi meets the leader of the AKR

In a meeting between Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi and the leader of the Aleanca Kosova e Re (New Kosovo Alliance) party, Behgjet Pacolli, they said that in the process of independence, in the building of democratic order and in the process of Kosovo’s integration in Euro-Atlantic structures; there will be no government and opposition in this country – instead there will be a shared successful way of working. Prime Minister Thaçi said it was his opinion that the AKR party would want to collaborate in reforms in the justice, education and health sectors, where there can be real collaboration. The AKR leader, Behgjet Pacolli, said that the meeting with Prime Minister Thaçi was fairly encouraging and that in his opinion, Kosovo now had a very different government; a government which didn’t work for its own interests or for the interests of a group of people, but for the interests of the citizens of Kosovo.
Prime Minister Thaçi meets the leader of the LDD

Hashim Thaçi, the Prime Minister of the Government of Kosovo and the leader of the LDD, Nexhat Daci, agreed to work closely together to build the conditions for the declaration of Kosovo’s independence and for the Kosovar state to come into being, in practice. “There will be no differences between institutions, between the government and the opposition. We will all be together; we will work for the interests of the country and all citizens, without party differences, so as you know we will all continue to work to draft the Constitution, to bring out the national symbols, to implement the Ahtisaari Plan and to make the best preparations for declaring independence,” said Prime Minister Thaçi. “The LDD will not be the government’s opposition in this instance. Instead we will be together, because statehood and independence belongs to many generations before us who sacrificed themselves for it, and it belongs to the people, to all citizens, and there will be no government and opposition here,” said Daci. “I am optimistic that this government has the prerequisites to be successful,” said the LDD leader, Nexhat Daci.
Hashim Thaçi, the Prime Minister of the Kosovar Government, meets the head of the PSHDK, Ton Marku

In congratulating Mr. Marku, as the leader of the Albanian Christian Democratic Party of Kosovo, Prime Minister Thaçi said he was open to inter-institutional cooperation. Prime Minister Thaçi thanked the leader of this party for his willingness to support Kosovo’s institutions in the independence recognition process, a process which had required universal input from the whole political spectrum, and said “this party has great opportunities, potential and human resources for us to work, help and live up to our responsibilities.”

“The PSHDK is a party which is committed to investing in Kosovo’s state and civil unity and naturally as part of this we will have ongoing contact, which will deepen, and we will invest together, as the whole Kosovar institutional political spectrum with a clear vision of integrating Kosovo in NATO and into European Union structures,” said Prime Minister Thaçi in a meeting with the senior leader of the PSHDK. The new leader of the Par-tia Shqiptare Demokristiane e Kosovës (Albanian Christian Democratic Party of Kosovo), Mr. Ton Marku, gave his support for the political process and support for the Government in all future government projects, especially in lobbying for the recognition of Kosovo.  

(Prishtina, June 10th, 2008)
The Recak tragedy accelerated the diplomatic efforts of the democratic world, which thereafter supported the just war of the Kosovo Liberation Army. Only two months later, the democratic world, with NATO at the fore, came to defend the people of Kosovo. It was the clear political and strategic vision of the KLA, the civil resistance and the NATO intervention which marked a historic victory, finally liberating Kosovo. Kosovo successfully passed through a period of transition, healing the wounds of war. A society which endured a long
period of oppression and destruction cannot develop in a short period. But the will, the commitment and the vision for a good future have not been lacking for one moment. Kosovo’s citizens and leaders have demonstrated that they are grateful and thankful for the support given by the international community. On behalf of Kosovo’s citizens, I would like to thank William Walker, this great friend of truth and great friend of Kosovo, who, with great courage, joined the side of justice. The citizens and leaders of Kosovo know that the bitter past will not be forgotten. It is only when there is a path to the future with a clear vision of what is good for the country, that the past is not repeated. After ten years of these events, Kosovo is an independent and sovereign state. Only the work, honor, assuming of responsibility and commitment to building Kosovo’s state institutions justify the acts of the fallen, their sacrifice for the high ideal of freedom. The Government of the Republic of Kosovo is making every effort so that today – Kosovo develops in every way. For Kosovo to have security, peace, progress and an improved quality of life. Every day, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is committed to improving the welfare and care of families of the fallen, orphans and war invalids and every social welfare group. Institutional protection for these people is a state responsibility. As Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, they will have my full support. Every day the Kosovar Government works very responsibly so that we can be part of the developed world as soon as possible, a part of Euro-Atlantic integration. Kosovo is a country which all of her citizens feel proud of.

The keynote of the speech of Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi at the Memorial Hour organized to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the massacre by Serb forces at Recak in the municipality of Shtima

(Recak, January 15th, 2009)
A variety of units from the Kosovar Police (KP) were assembled in the Center for Public Security in Vushtrri on the day to mark the ninth anniversary of the Kosovar Police. Together with a number of other KP officials who were unable to come because of other commitments, they celebrated this significant event for the Kosovar Police. The Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, said that the leaders of Kosovo “feel proud of the significant achievements of our police and we feel even more obligation to continue our commitment to institutional support for the country’s police. After nine years, the results of the police’s work are encouraging and the successes I could list here are numerous.” At the ceremony, the country’s President, Fatmir Sejdiu, said that Kosovo’s police were one of the successful indicators of the functioning of the country’s institutions.

(Prishtina, June 9th, 2008)
The modern Ministry of Internal Affairs building, a step forward in moving on from the mentality of the past

“Today is a special day for the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo. We are implementing projects which we promised would happen and projects of the institutions of our Republic, as sites with dignity worthy of a state, with Western standards for our new police in the state of Kosovo,” Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi said among other things in the foundation stone laying ceremony for the new Ministry of Internal Affairs building. “We are very aware of our responsibilities and proud of this important investment for the Ministry of Internal Affairs and I would like to thank the European Agency who has helped this project and similar projects will continue in the future. These are our new projects which reflect the most positive possible sense of the return of dignity to the institutions of our new state,” the head of the Kosovar executive, Hashim Thaçi, stated. The beginning of work at this modern site for the Ministry of Internal Affairs represents one more step forward in moving on from the mentality of the past, said the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the Kosovar Ministry of Internal Affairs building.

(Prishtina, August 26th, 2008)
Three communal buildings with 60 apartments for 60 families from the Serbian community constructed in Lapje Selo

With the ‘Lapje Selo’ project in Prishtina municipality, the Ministry of Communities and Return has committed to construct three communal buildings made up of 60 apartments with the accompanying infrastructure for 60 families of the Serbian community. For the initial drafting and implementation of this project, the Ministry of Communities and Return found moral support from UNMIK, UNDP, UNHCR, OSCE, the Municipality Working Group within the Municipality of Prishtina, the Municipality Office for Returns within Prishtina Municipality and others.

18 homes built in Kllobukar for displaced persons and 3 homes for severe social welfare cases

Another organized returns project is the “Kllobukar” project in Artana (Novoberda) Municipality. Under the supervision and organization of the Ministry of Communities and Return, 18 homes are being built for displaced persons from the Serbian community as well as 3 homes for serious social welfare cases from the Albanian community. As part of this project, it is also envisaged that all
the auxiliary infrastructure and a culture center will be built and the road repaired. The partner

for delivering this project is the Municipality of Artana itself. During the implementation phase, the Ministry of Communities and Return, in collaboration with municipality officials from the Artana Municipality and Kosovo Police, organized visits to 13 displaced persons to inform them about the process and implementation of the project. The Ministry of Communities and Return has allocated resources of 2 million euros for the purpose of promoting, stabilizing and re-integrating communities, for sustainable return, sustainable economic growth and promotion of dialogue between communities.
Hashim Thaçi, Prime Minister of Kosovo, was the guest of the family of Slavisha Slavkovic in Rubovc of the Lipjan Municipality, when he gave him the tractor he had promised him the previous week. “As Prime Minister of Kosovo and the Government, it is my responsibility to keep my promises,” said the head of the executive before giving Slavisha Slavkovic a new tractor trailer. He took the opportunity to say that the Government of the country would work for all the citizens of the country, irrespective of their ethnicity. Meanwhile, Slavisha Slavkovic thanked Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi for keeping his word and said that he trusted the Kosovar Prime Minister and Government.

(Prishtina, February 10th, 2008)
THE KOSOVO CONSTITUTION MUST BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE ENTIRE TERRITORY OF KOSOVO
Kosovo’s status is resolved – this issue is closed

In response to the 6-point-plan proposed by the UN Secretary General, expected to be included in the report of the UN Secretary-General which will be presented to the Security Council of the United Nations, in today’s session of the Republic of Kosovo Assembly, Prime Minister Thaçi stressed once again that:

• Kosovo’s status is resolved and this issue is closed. From February 17th, 2008, Kosovo has been an independent and sovereign state and will forever be so.

• EULEX will be established in Kosovo as anticipated in the Kosovar Constitution and the Ahtisaari Plan. UNMIK will have no executive role, but will be a facilitator for the establishment of EULEX. Any other suggestions will be considered a violation of the Republic of Kosovo Constitution and of our state sovereignty. UN resolu-
tion 1244 is completely irrelevant and makes no sense in our sovereign state. As such, Kosovo’s institutions have no legal duty to take account of it.

• All the areas, such as justice, police, borders, customs, Serbian heritage, transport and infrastructure, mentioned in the UN six-point-plan; come under our relevant laws, as have been approved by the Kosovar Parliament and are in full accordance with the Kosovar Constitution. Any other plan, any other document, and even more so any other report, even that of the UN is illegal and impossible to implement.

• Kosovo has presented its 4 points which represent our official position in relation to the 6 points proposed. Kosovo has a Constitution and modern laws, which cover all the issues raised in the UN Secretary General’s 6-point-plan.

• Therefore it is the Kosovar Constitution and the laws approved by the Kosovar Parliament and no other which I, as Prime Minister of Kosovo, will fulfill and implement in practice. This is our plan; this is our vision.

• Any plan or report which is compiled by the United National Security Council without being officially passed by the Republic of Kosovo will be completely unacceptable and impossible to implement in the territory belonging to our state.

Prishtina, November 25th, 2008
THE VALUES OF OUR NATIONAL CULTURE
Today, one hundred years later, we are proud of the decisions of the Congress of Manastir. We are proud of that visionary spirit which recognized that our cultural identity was where it had always been, historically, geographically, as a people of ancient origins and with an Indo-European language within the values of Western culture. The decision was taken at that Congress that our alphabet would have the luck, the honor and the role of writing and making the history of the Albanians, the honor of being used as Albanian writing. Millions of words, sentences, opinions, important acts have been written and will be written with this alphabet. Books are written with this alphabet, from children’s first school books to the most important philosophical theses, books of literature, philosophy, psychology, books of natural science and academia. Official documents, diplomatic treaties, laws, Constitutions and alliance agreements are drafted with this alphabet. It was with the Congress of Manastir’s alphabet that the document of the Independence of Albania was written on November 28th 1912. Likewise, it was with the alphabet from this Congress that Kosovo’s Declaration of Independence was written on February 17th, 2008. It was with this that the freedom of Kosovo was written: the history of the Kosovo Liberation Army, the history of civil resistance, the history of the liberation of Kosovo. With this, our alliance with the advanced democratic world, with Western democracy, the USA, the EU and NATO was created. With this alphabet, which creates a culture of tolerance and friendship with our neighbors, the independent and sovereign state of Kosovo is being recognized and accepted more widely every day. With this alphabet, the future of our countries, the democratization of the region and the opening up of a future of Euro-Atlantic integration will be written. The language of freedom and respect for one another will be written with this alphabet. And, finally, with this alphabet, we will be a part of the advanced world.

Excerpts from the speech of Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi at the Official Commemoration marking the centenary of the Congress of Manastir, November 22nd, 2008
GOOD GOVERNANCE
The Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, met with the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Fatmir Sejdiu. The meeting is one of the regular meetings with the President and the President of the Assembly, Jakup Krasniqi, on planned developments and on the work carried out by the institutions.

Prime Minister Thaçi informed the President of the Republic of Kosovo on the meeting of the Security Council, on the representation of Kosovo, that there was a coordinated state representation, where the will of the citizens of Kosovo was presented for an independent and democratic Kosovo.

“At the same, we also discussed further steps concerning preparation for the visit to Brussels in order for us to move forward in a coordinated manner and while maintaining close cooperation with Washington, Brussels, and to bring successful closure to the status issue through unifying Kosovar politics, involving all citizens, and in full coordination with our international partners. We are at the same time continuing with tasks we share with UNMIK authorities and NATO in the steps ahead of us,” emphasized Prime Minister Thaçi.
Ready for true changes

Citizens of Kosovo,
I request your continuous unity, trust and understanding.
The challenges we are facing are not few number and the solutions to them cannot be easy and quick. The program I will present will start being implemented in practice as of today, but it will not be concluded during the first year of this Government. We will pursue a long journey together. So, I invite you to join me so that we can start this journey as of today, united and in a spirit of hope, determination and opportunities.

Dear Members of the Assembly,
I invite you today to vote in favor of this agenda, of this Government and of the citizens that will help us in our journey. You have sent a clear message to those you represent. You told them that you are ready to be strong leaders, as they want you to be, make real changes they are looking for, and build the new country the way they deserve.

Thank you.

(Excerpts from the address of Prime Minister Thaçi to the Assembly of Kosovo, January 9th, 2008)
In a solemn event organized by the Kosovo Protection Corps Ceremonial Guard, Mr. Hashim Thaçi took over the post of the Prime Minister of Kosovo from his predecessor, Agim Çeku. On this occasion, former Prime Minister Çeku expressed his belief that the Government of Prime Minister Thaçi will commit itself to new priorities and will keep the promises it has made. “I honestly wish Prime Minister Thaçi and his Cabinet success in their work and in carrying out their tasks, because their success will be the success of Kosovo,” said former Prime Minister Agim Çeku. Prime Minister Thaçi acknowledged the commitment of Mr. Çeku during his tenure and expressed his determination to continue the good works done by the Government. “I am taking over this new responsibility with a strong will and clear vision for a better future for the country and all of the citizens,” said the new Prime Minister on this occasion. Prime Minister Thaçi said that his new Governing Cabinet will be committed to fighting corruption and everything that is not a value. “There will be a continuation of governing determination in every good project launched by Prime Minister Çeku. Some projects will be supplemented, and naturally, we will continue with the new governing program, that will be in accordance with the changes for the benefit of the country,” said Mr. Thaçi. Prime Minister Thaçi said that this Government will promote the spirit of unity and joint engagement, so that Kosovo becomes an independent state.

(Prishtina, January 10th, 2008)
Following his election at the helm of the Government of Kosovo, Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi received many letters and congratulatory messages. US Undersecretary of State, Mr. Nicholas Burns, congratulated Mr. Thaçi on his election and reaffirmed the support of the United States of America. The European Union High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Mr. Javier Solana, and the European Union Enlargement Commissioner, Olli Rehn, both congratulated Prime Minister Thaçi on his election as Prime Minister. Likewise, the Prime Minister received congratulatory messages from the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, from the Prime Minister of Albania, Mr. Sali Berisha, from the head of the Socialist Party of Albania, Mr. Edi Rama and from the Albanian Royal Court. Prime Minister Thaçi received congratulations from Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Letters of congratulations were also received from German Foreign Minister Frank Walter Steinmeier who expressed his sincerest congratulations, wishing courage, optimism and good work in accomplishing the tasks ahead of the new Prime Minister of Kosovo. The Prime Minister of the Government of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, received congratulations from the then head of the US Office, Tina Kaidanow, on his election as Prime Minister and received the commitment of the US Office to continue supporting the political processes in Kosovo.

(Prishtina, January 2008)
Open Government meetings

The citizens of Kosovo rightfully expect a great deal of work to ensure a better life for them and to the benefit of our country. The promises we all have given should be realized. We will be responsible in our work beginning from the respecting of working hours up to the projects that require the engagement of all of the people in and outside of the Government. We need to manage our time, projects and ideas in a careful way and those coming from all of the people of Kosovo. We will be cautious in spending the budget of our country being accountable for every cent we spend. The budget derives from the perspiration of the people and is an asset of our people and we should be very responsible towards them and the law. I ask all of you, the staff working at the Government, myself included, for full rigorousness.

(From Prime Minister Thaçi’ speech at the inaugural meeting of the Government of Kosovo, January 11th, 2008)
Prime Minister Thaçi was briefed by Linda Casella, Auditor General, on the work so far, covering the year 2006, which according to her; has been excellent, serious and very responsible. The Prime Minister was further informed that the auditing in the previous Ministries and the Government is expected to be concluded in May of this year. On this occasion, the Prime Minister requested from the Head of the Auditor General Office to start auditing immediately as of the first day of the launch of work of the Government he is leading, starting from the Office of the Prime Minister, all the Ministries, and local authorities. “This is part of the philosophy of the new Government and part of the battle in the fight against corruption and negative phenomena. Another important part of this commitment will be the auditing of the performance, which will be an additional audit, not only on those who have violated the law, but also towards those that have not carried out their tasks well and who have created favorable circumstances that are not in accordance with the true level of the institutions of Kosovo.”

(Prishtina, February 11th, 2008)
The Prime Minister of the Government of the Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, held a meeting with the Presidents of the Municipal Assemblies, and on this occasion, there was discussion regarding the technical preparations for the celebration of the declaration of independence. “This is the most important moment in the history of Kosovo. The eyes of the entire world are turned to us. This is our responsibility. This is our merit, so that the day of the independence declaration will be a day of dignity and of the respect for civic national values and inter-ethnic cohabitation. Independence day is for the betterment of all citizens and in the interest of peace and stability in the region,” said Mr. Thaçi. Prime Minister Thaçi emphasized that in all of the municipalities of Kosovo, all measures must be undertaken in order to secure that Independence Day is celebrated in a calm and dignified manner, without provocations or disturbances against anyone.

Prime Minister Thaçi said that this day will be well organized, because we have also known how to work well, to sacrifice and to take responsibility for building the new reality of independent Kosovo and of the sovereign and democratic state with a clear vision for integration in the European Union and NATO structures.

(Prishtina, February 14th, 2008)
Prime Minister Thaçi: Kosovo has many concerns, but no unsolvable issues

The Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Hashim Thaçi, from the early morning hours; received hundreds of citizens from all parts of the country in direct communication with them. “In serving all of the citizens of the country, I will be at the helm of the obligations to continue to solve the concrete problems of the citizens,” expressed Prime Minister Thaçi after several meetings which were held in his office, in the building of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo. “It is an honor, a pleasure, a responsibility and even a special feeling, to meet people of from different fields of knowledge, of different ages and of different regions. I, as the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, in serving all of the citizens of the country, will be at the helm of the obligations that will continue to solve the concrete problems that the citizens and Kosovar families have,” said Prime Minister Thaçi.
“Independence will not bring about miracles, but with the independence of Kosovo, the solving of great problems which have been accumulating for a century in Kosovo, will begin. Let us make every citizen proud to live in independent Kosovo, with great opportunities,” emphasized Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi. “Several issues and significant developments in our society are processes,” mentioned the Prime Minister, “however, it will not trouble us to begin to solve the concrete problems of our citizens. I strongly believe that much better living and working conditions will be created in Kosovo,” expressed Prime Minister Thaçi, during discussions with several groups of citizens, who had came to meet the Prime Minister.

(Prishtina, May 6th, 2008)
The 15th regular meeting of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, chaired by Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, was held in the premises of the Municipal Assembly of Mitrovica.

The meeting was mainly dedicated to the presentation of the Government’s development projects for Mitrovica. The head of the Municipality of Mitrovica, Bajram Rexhepi, participated by hosting the meeting. In his introductory statement, Prime Minister Thaçi said “I have decided to hold meetings of the Government of the Independence of Kosovo in Mitrovica and other cities throughout Kosovo. We will promote transparency, and will establish a democratic tradition to be as close to the citizens as possible. It is our commitment to bring the Government to the people, so that it is close to them and to show them the concrete commitment of the Government in each and every municipality, to each and every citizen. This tradition will continue and in due time we will also go to other cities of Kosovo,” said the Prime Minister of the Government of Kosovo. Prime Minister Thaçi said that the Government will today submit the Government’s program to the Assembly, a record time of the presentation of a Government program. “Only one day following the approval of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, we will immediately start working according to the 2008-2011 program of the Government of Kosovo, a program that is in full harmony with the Constitution approved yesterday by the Parliament of Kosovo,” said the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo.

“For the Government of Kosovo, for our Government, Mitrovica will be a special priority. Mitrovica is Kosovo itself, therefore we have a strong will for additional work in Mitrovica,” stressed Mr. Thaçi.

The Prime Minister of the Government of Kosovo, Mr. Hashim Thaçi, congratulated former Prime Minister...
Minister Rexhepi, the current Mitrovica mayor, on the work he’s done. In addition, he said that for Mitrovica, there will be no North and South; instead there will be one Mitrovica. This is also foreseen by the Ahtisaari Plan. We believe in our joint success, in the success of integration, in a success of Mitrovica, Kosovo, peace and stability. Talking about the security situation, Prime Minister Thaçi said that this is a preoccupation of the Government in the entire territory of Kosovo. However, the main focus of the Government is on this part of Kosovo. “I encourage you to cooperate with KFOR and the new international mission. We need to continue our cooperation in coordination with the international community,” said Prime Minister Thaçi.

“The rule of law will cover all of the territory of Kosovo. The Government has concrete strategies on how to fully integrate this part, through respecting the law, and also through showing our interest and making it attractive for all the citizens; I thank everyone for this cooperation, all of the democratic institutions of Kosovo. I call on the people of Kosovo again to continue to trust in our common success. The Government will invest additional resources in this part,” stressed the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi.

(Mitrovica, April 10th, 2008)
With the initiative of Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo decided to earmark 100 thousand euros to aid the rebuilding of homes in the “Kroi i Vitakut” Quarter of North Mitrovica, in addition, the Government earmarked 20 thousand euros to support the renovation of the home of martyr Hasan Ramadani’s family, in Shajkovc of Podujeva.

(Prishtina, January 23rd, 2009)
At the opening of the meeting, Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi stressed that the concept for the organization of Government meetings in cities of different municipalities, is a concept which brings the Government closer to its citizens. In the opening speech, Prime Minister Thaçi valued the engagement of the Government to expand development to all corners of Kosovo, whereas the determination for the Burim (Istog) Municipality is expressed with the very presence of the Government Cabinet in this municipality. He called upon the Municipality Mayor, Fadil Ferati, to present the priority projects of this municipality before the Government Cabinet. Ferati presented the municipality’s projects, which request the support of the Government of Kosovo, mainly in road infrastructure, water-supply and the sanitation of sewage, as well as investment in the erecting of school and health buildings. Pursuant to this, the Minister for Transport and Telecommunication, Fatmir Limaj, promised support for the road infrastructure projects, emphasizing the project for paving the Rakosh-Uca-Sushica road, for the immediate use of the citizens from the surrounding area.

(Burim, May 8th, 2008)
The 22nd meeting of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, chaired by Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, was held today in the premises of the Municipal Assembly of Peja. At the meeting, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo’s projects for the Peja Municipality were discussed. The Ministers presented their projects that had to do with the improvement of road, education, health and justice infrastructure. It was mentioned in the meeting that the investments in this region, only during this year, will be ten times greater, than those of the past years. The host of this meeting, Peja Major, Mr. Ali Berisha, requested from the Government that the current budget system for the Peja Municipality be improved; the reason being that since the end of war, Peja has been receiving a central annual budget for 115 thousand residents, however since that time; the Municipality of Peja now has over 150 thousand residents. Prime Minister Thaçi promised that this issue will be immediately improved upon after the population registration is undertaken.

The Government also approved two draft laws: The Draft Law on the Empowerment and Participation of the Youth (Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports) and the Draft Law on the Amendment and Changing of Law No. 2003/7 on the Archive Subject and Archives (Office of the Prime Minister). The Government also made the decision today to finance rehabilitation holidays for 800 members of the Associations deriving from the War and for 200 Families of Martyrs.

(Peja, May 30th, 2008)
KOSOVO’S DEVELOPMENT IS TAKING ON NEW ROADS
The work begins for the expansion of the Fushë Kosova-Prishtina Airport Highway

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, accompanied by the Minister of Transport and Telecommunication, Fatmir Limaj, inaugurated the beginning of work for continuing the expansion of the Fushe Kosova-Peja Highway, specifically the part up until Prishtina Airport.

On this occasion, Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, in referring to the importance of road infrastructure projects, said that this project, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year, will cost around 33 million euros and the project was architected according to the highest European standards. This grand modern project will continue to Peja and it is planned to be fully completed by the year 2010.

“The modernization of road networks will also continue towards Ferizaj up to the border with Macedonia, and also in the direction towards Mitrovica and...
other parts of Kosovo, in order for each citizen to be proud to live in free and democratic Kosovo,” said Prime Minister Thaçi.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, congratulated Minister Fatmir Limaj for his great engagement and determination in the implementation of these capital projects for the country.

Meanwhile, Transport and Telecommunication Minister Fatmir Limaj regarded the project for the building of the Fushe Kosova-Sllatina Highway as an airport road, which has a multidimensional character for Kosovo, and specifically for the citizens of the capital city. Minister Limaj regarded this road as a bridge connecting Kosovo to the world.

The road will have bridges and overpasses, it will have four lanes and two shoulder roads for assistance. Mr. Limaj confirmed that the continuation of the highway to Peja will begin in the upcoming year and is expected to be completed within a year.

(Prishtina, August 20th, 2008)
Prime Minister Thaçi in a speech before many citizens and municipal leaders affirmed that the building of this ring is towards a comprehensive interest, not only for the residents of Shtima, but also for the free movement in the direction towards Theranda, Prizren and Albania.

In this way, mentioned Mr. Thaçi, Shtima will look like a modern city with an orderly infrastructure.

“This project will free the traffic and movement of people and goods a great deal. I am very pleased that roads are being built all throughout Kosovo and that a modern infrastructure is being built which will influence development and employment,” said Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi.

The Minister of Transport and Telecommunication, Fatmir Limaj, congratulated the citizens of the Shtima Municipality and the building companies as well for their qualitative work which was done on time. Minister Limaj said that this year 127 million euros will be invested for road infrastructure in Kosovo.

(Shtima, June 17th, 2008)
Before many residents gathered in the “7 Shtatori” schoolyard in Krileva, Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi said that today, several months after the declaration of independence; we have begun to work vigorously. “We have begun the building of schools, the building of roads; we have begun with general reforms. There will only be better days, economic development and new job opportunities for Kosovo and there will be a perspective for all of our country’s citizens,” expressed Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi. “I am proud to be here to inaugurate this road that this area had been lacking. The Government is vigorously investing also in this important part of the territory of the Republic of Kosovo, in addition we are continuing with other road infrastructure projects, such as the one connecting this municipality through a paved road with the Municipality of Prishtina,” said Prime Minister Thaçi. Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi promised the residents of Krileva that a new building would be quickly erected for the “7 Shtatori” elementary school. Meanwhile, Deputy Minister Grabovci emphasized that around 700 thousand euros were investment for the pavement of this road and that this project is one of 160 projects which the Ministry of Transport is implementing in the entire territory of the Republic of Kosovo. (Prishtina, September 27th, 2008)
In a festive ceremony organized in the town of Jezerc where many residents of this area took part, on the occasion of the inauguration of the work completion of the new road; the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, stressed: “Today we have inaugurated another road in a very beautiful area, in an area which symbolizes the national resistance here in Jezerc. This area deserves to be modern; therefore we have had that in consideration in order to make lives for these people who live here easier, with a new road and with a new school as well. These investments will not stop, they will only increase,” said Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi in securing the residents.

“I am here today to congratulate the residents of this area on this new road, for this new life; a better life with better living conditions and a higher social well-being. We will continue to invest in every part of the territory of the Republic of Kosovo,” stressed the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo. The Deputy Minister of Transport and Telecommunication, Adem Grabovci, and the Mayor of the Ferizaj Municipality, Bajrush Xhemalı, also spoke at the inaugural ceremony for the new Jezerc road. The new Jezerc road makes up a distance of 7 kilometers and is valued at 1 million euros.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo, only within this eight month time period, has invested over 3.5 million euros in road infrastructure.

(Prishtina, September 28th, 2008)
The Prime Minister visits the work site for the paving of the Vushttri-Skenderaj road

The Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Hashim Thaçi, accompanied by the Minister for Transport and Telecommunication, Mr. Fatmir Limaj, went to the work site of the pavement of the Vushttri-Skenderaj regional road, which is 17.5 kilometers in length. “This region should definitely not only be a region of national pride for the national resistance, it should also be considered a region of development, employment, modernization, and emancipation,” stressed Mr. Thaçi, emphasizing that this 17.5 kilometer project, with a value of around 6 million euros, is a project of the Government of Kosovo; a concrete project, for the betterment of this country and for the betterment of all citizens.

(Prishtina, June 3rd, 2008)
Investments of the Government of Kosovo in every corner of the country

The Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Hashim Thaçi, accompanied by the Minister of Transport and Telecommunication, Mr. Fatmir Limaj, took part in the inauguration of the Sharr-Brod paved road. The road is 12 kilometers long and connects the town of Brod, in the depths of the Sharri Mountains, with the Municipal Center of Sharri.

“The Investments of the Government of Kosovo will be present in every corner of the territory of Kosovo; all of the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo will have the benefit of these investments. These investments for all of the communities are investments for a better life, for a collective life, in which every citizen of Kosovo will feel proud of their new life in independent Kosovo, democratic Kosovo, Kosovo with European standards, and in Kosovo of a social well-being,” expressed Prime Minister Thaçi on this occasion. “The Government of the Republic of Kosovo will not have a difference in its priorities between the center of Kosovo and its peripheral part. For the current Government, the entire territory of Kosovo will be a part of the collective engagements, in order for all of the citizens to enjoy the benefits of this Government and to feel that the Government’s hand is extended close to them, for their own good,” said Prime Minister Thaçi.

(Prishtina, May 5th, 2008)
The Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Hashim Thaçi, accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Transport and Telecommunication, Mr. Adem Grabovci, solemnly inaugurated the Banja-Vrella paved road in the Municipality of Burim. “This road is only one of the many projects that the Government of Kosovo is making a reality,” affirmed Prime Minister Thaçi. “We will work for the better of all of our citizens in every nook and corner of the country, in order to improve living infrastructure; and will do this according to the highest European standards,” emphasized Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi. The Banja-Vrella paved road, with a length of 6 kilometers, cost around 750 thousand euros and was financed by the instruments of the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication (MTT).

(Prishtina, May 17th, 2008)
The Government of Kosovo allocated over five million euros only for the Municipality of Prizren

“The Government of the Republic of Kosovo allocated over five million euros only for the Municipality of Prizren this year, instruments which are meant for the regulation of road infrastructure,” said Mr. Thaçi, adding that this investment will influence the improvement of living conditions and the social well-being of the very residents of this area which gave many martyrs for the freedom of Kosovo.

“The Government of the Republic of Kosovo prioritized those projects that have positive effects for residents and invested in those places where there has never been investment after the war. Meanwhile, we are witnesses that the Billusha town in Prizren has given a great deal for Kosovo and the families of martyrs are those most deserving of investment,” said Thaçi.

(Prishtina, October 4th, 2008)
“Our determination is that throughout this entire time period, we will have only inaugurations because there was work for a long period of time and this was work of the highest level of responsibility. We will have more new projects with will make the lives of all the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo easier. I must congratulate these residents for their new road, for their new life, for new Kosovo, for the state of Kosovo,” said Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, adding that the priorities of the Government of Kosovo for Sharri as well as for the other municipalities of Kosovo are related to education, the erecting of school buildings as well as the development of road infrastructure. Further on, Mr. Thaçi promised that there will also be investment in farming, in agriculture and much better working and living conditions will be provided for the residents of Sharri.

“The Municipality of Sharri is one of the most beautiful municipalities in this region of Kosovo and this natural beauty should be utilized; we will utilize this beauty to the maximum within the framework of our priorities in order for these citizens to be truly happy, for them to live well and to be proud of their country,” said Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi on the occasion of the inauguration of the Buqa and Plava roads in the Municipality of Sharri.

(Prishtina, October 4th, 2008)
The citizens will feel the support of their state

“We have invested over 4 million euros in road infrastructure, new schools, in sanitation and water-supply. There will be over 9 million euros in investment only for the city of Mitrovica. The investments will continue, in order to make the lives of our citizens easier also in the North of Mitrovica, so that citizens will remain in their homes and on their properties,” said the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi. “The situation in Mitrovica reflects the situation of our entire region, therefore I, as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, and all of our country’s institutions must be close to these citizens; the citizens will feel the support of their state, and this region will be at the helm of the main priorities of our institutions,” emphasized Prime Minister Thaçi.

(Prishtina, October 5th, 2008)
Investments in the North of Kosovo will increase; we are changing our country for the better

Modernization will open up a better perspective for general development as well as for the employment of the youth. This is so that the citizen of Kosovo, anywhere that he/she lives, will live well, will feel good in the new state of Kosovo; a stable state, one of peace, a state with a perspective for economic development, and a state with the perspective for very quick integration in NATO and the EU. Therefore, we come today with Minister Limaj to congratulate the citizens for their new road, for new Kosovo and for a better and safer life,” emphasized the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, following the inauguration of 4 roads in the Mitrovica region, the Vinarc-Mitrovica road, the “Ilaz Kodra” and “Sami Gashi” roads in Mitrovica and the road for the town of Kciq in this municipality.

(Mitrovica, November 15th, 2008)
The Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, accompanied by the Minister for Transport and Telecommunication, Fatmir Limaj, and the Mayor of the Prizren Municipality, Ramadan Muja, inaugurated the paved road in the town of Zhur within this municipality.

On this occasion, Prime Minister Thaçi promised the residents of the town of Zhur that the Government of the Republic of Kosovo will continue with the implementation of other projects, such as the building of the house of culture, afterwards the building of a hydro power plant, and with other projects for the good of the citizens and in the service of the new Republic.

(Prishtina, December 21st, 2008)
Transport and telecommunication is among several important fields and sectors, the level of development of which must be harmonized with European Union standards. Towards this end, the Republic of Kosovo has marked significant progress, notably this year, following the declaration of independence and Kosovo’s recognition as an independent and sovereign state. Since the current time period and the one to follow considers this fundamental for the optics of European integration, special importance is being dedicated and will continue to be dedicated to building, developing and maintaining the transportation network and the telecommunications network, as a vital basic network of efficient inter-personal connection and communication, of economic cohesion and towards sustainable social evolution.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo strongly supports the idea that transporta-
KOSOVO’S DEVELOPMENT IS TAKING ON NEW ROADS

Investment infrastructure is a necessary prerequisite for favorable economic development for our country, as well as for the functional integration with regional and European transportation infrastructure.

In this context, intensive investments in the building program of highways and other roads, in the rehabilitation and maintenance of existing ones, in the building of local roads through co-financing with municipalities; take on a fundamental role, especially when the positive comprehensive effects of these investments are elaborated. These investments reflect the philosophy of long-term sustainable development, which have as an objective, the increase of the economic and social cohesion of our state.

(Excerpts from the Speech of the Minister of the MTT, Fatmir Limaj, at the international conference of the European Centre for Western Balkans Development, held in Celje, Slovenia on 10.09.2008)
J feel honored that in the name of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and in the name of Prime Minister Thaçi, I have come here, not only to speak or to bring deserving investments to this region where we have invested more than 1 million euros, but also to visit the workshops in the towns of Firaja and Brod. This shows that the Government of Kosovo is investing in every extent of the territory of Kosovo.

I am especially emotional to take part in this inauguration at the birthplace of a great man who gave a great deal for the freedom of Kosovo, Commander Ahmet Kaçiku, meanwhile I am honored to have this martyr’s mother, and the fellow soldiers and countryman of Ahmet take part in this inauguration.

This road is not only for the community that lives here, it is a road which bears witness to the building of a peaceful future, of the secure future of a state, which intends to be part of united Europe, which will connect Albanians, Serbians, and all others.

(Excerpts from the speech of the Minister of the MTT, Fatmir Limaj, held on 21.10.2008 on the occasion of the inauguration of the road in the Biti town of Shterpca)
KNOWLEDGE IS THE STRENGTH TO MOVE FORWARD
Prime Minister Thaçi: The youth, the pillars of our economy and our country

The Active Labour Market Programme for Youth, the results of which we are presenting, is a joint effort by the UNDP and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

I would also like to thank the Governments of Norway and Denmark for their much appreciated support on this project.

The Republic of Kosovo is the country with the youngest population in Europe, with about 50% of the population being between the ages of 19-34. This program has focused specifically on this age group which has benefited and will continue to benefit most from this initiative.

It is encouraging that over 7,000 job seekers have been supported by this program. The active employment policies secured short-term employment for over 3,000 job-seekers, 15% of whom are members of our minority communities.

Meanwhile, around 4,000 job seekers secured long-term employment, including 12% from our minority communities.

Besides this, 44% of the job seekers supported by this program are employed in public works, 30% received subsidies on their wages, and 20% received on the job training.

These statistics are only one example of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo’s commitment to work with international actors in Kosovo to create jobs and stimulate our economy. Economic development and prosperity are important for all citizens of Kosovo, regardless of their ethnic background.

This program supports job seekers across the whole Republic of Kosovo, reemphasizing the fact that this Government and its all-inclusive government programs don’t see east or west, north or south Kosovo; on the contrary, we view all of our citizens as equal and our country as unitary, without any
regional or ethnic divisions. Our youth can trust in the strong support by their institutions; we have embarked on serious educational reform in schools and universities, towards the modern preparation of our youth; we have supported projects such as this one, towards their readiness for sustainable engagement in our work force. I must also mention the small and medium sized businesses which have welcomed and benefited from this young work force, a work force which has been constructive and brought profit to their com-
panies.
The Republic of Kosovo has a work force which is prepared. These young and able-bodied workers are eager to take part in employment opportunities that derive from foreign investment in Kosovo. We are proud of the program’s achievements thus far. The Government of the Republic of Kosovo will continue to support and develop this project, with the generous aid of our donors and allies. We realize that the youth, the pillars of this economy and this country, need further care and investment focused on their continued development; this will then result in the sustainable development of our country’s market economy.

(The Speech of the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, on the occasion of the presentation of the Active Labour Market Programme for Youth, organized by the UNDP in Prishtina, on November 14th, 2008.)
Prime Minister Thaçi inaugurated new schools, as well as, distributed the first ABC Books for students

Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, accompanied by the Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Enver Hoxhaj, in the beginning days of the 2008/2009 new school year, in Kastriot Municipality; inaugurat-
ed the “Hasan Tahsini” technical middle school and high school in Kastriot and the “Ali Kelmendi” divided elementary school parallel in Nedakofoç of the Municipality of Vushtrri, meanwhile in the “Xhemajl Mustafa” elementary school, he distributed the first ABC Books for the children of this school.

Prime Minister Thaçi stated that the changes made this year with increasing the wage of teachers and distributing free school texts, guarantees an added care provided by the Government for education. “September 1st is a day of hope, trust, a day of a perspective for students and also a day of new commitments for all teachers,” said Prime Minister Thaçi adding that we are beginning the new school year for the first time in an independent, sovereign, and democratic Kosovo. In addition, Mr. Thaçi affirmed that we are beginning this year in independent Kosovo thanks to the century long sacrifices and efforts of all of us, however at the same time; we are beginning this academic year in new modern buildings, with higher wages for all Kosovar teachers and free books for 200 thousand new students as well.

Prime Minister Thaçi distributed ABC Books and the contributing supplies for first grade students of this school.

He expressed his positive evaluation for the conditions created by the Ministry of Education (MEST), for the free distribution to 200 thousand students in Kosovo. This year, books will be distributed for free to students from grades one to five, whereas next year, books will be distributed for all elementary school students in Kosovo.

(Prishtina, September 1st, 2008)
Prime Minister Thaçi presents the vision for strengthening the autonomy of the University of Prishtina

Prime Minister Thaçi, in a special manner, emphasized the successful beginning of the new academic year as well as the engagement of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo to support the development of higher education in Kosovo. Prime Minister Thaçi presented the Government vision for the advancement of studies and higher education in Kosovo. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, emphasized that this year begins with financial management autonomy in the University of Prishtina, which will strongly contribute in the improvement of the material condition of the University and also in the improvement of the material condition of the employees in UP. The Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Enver Hoxhaj, informed the Government Cabinet with the preparations that were made for the successful beginning of this academic year, respecting the Law on Higher Education in Kosovo. Minister Hoxhaj emphasized the orientation of higher education for the preparation of students for the developmental needs of Kosovo and the need for the lessening of the length of studies in the University of Prishtina. Functioning in the increase of the quality of education and services of UP, the Minister expressed the need for UP to be transferred into a research institution.

(Prishtina, October 2nd, 2008)
Elementary schools in Peja and in Stapanica of Malisheva are inaugurated

The Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Hashim Thaçi, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Hajredin Kuçi and the Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Enver Hoxhaj, inaugurated the new elementary school building in Stapanica in the Municipality of Malisheva and afterwards in the city of Peja, he inaugurated the new “Dardania” elementary school building. Before the students and teachers of the elementary school in Stapanica, Prime Minister Thaçi said that the Government of Kosovo showed its added care in the education field this year in increasing the wages of teachers and in the distribution of free school texts.

“We are here to open a new school, in our independent and sovereign Kosovo. Kosovo is greatly changing, it is changing in the most positive manner and you may realize these changes here today and all throughout Kosovo,” said Prime Minister Thaçi, added that this is New Kosovo, with new policies, new schools and the hope for the future of our children. Further on, Mr. Thaçi emphasized that there will only be advancement and development in Kosovo and that he feels very proud that in the beginning of this school year, we have new schools and there will be even a greater determination from the Ministry of Education, from the Government, from the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo for education in Kosovo.

In addition, Prime Minister Thaçi took part in the ceremony to inaugurate the new “Dardania” elementary school in Peja. This is a special year for all of Kosovo, and also for you, because for the first time, the new school year begins in indepen-
dent Kosovo. It is a new year, a new and favorable beginning, with new schools, modern and very contemporary, based on western models. The new academic school year begins with higher wages for all education employees and with free books for all Kosovar students,” emphasized Prime Minister Thaçi.

(Malisheva & Peja, September 4th, 2008)
The building of the new school in Remnik of Vitia begins


“A new epoch is beginning, an epoch of new responsibilities and engagements, an epoch of building our democratic and western oriented country, with open opportunities for membership in the European Union and NATO. The epoch of the erecting of new school buildings for the good of our students and our country’s future is beginning. During this year, 66 new schools will be built and the projects which had begun earlier, 80 in total, will be completed. Investment in the field of education, in school infrastructure is an investment for the future of our country,” emphasized Prime Minister Thaçi.

“Yesterday in Mitrovica, we began the project for the computerization of all schools in Kosovo. In the future, we will continue with the modernization of schools according to contemporary standards,” expressed Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi. The majority of students in this school up until now been taught in makeshift school conditions and some of them in an improvised building (barracks). The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology allocated 500,000 euros for the erecting of this new building.

(Prishtina, April 15th, 2008)
On the 10th commemoration of the fall of the heroes of Kosovo, Fehmi and Xhevë Lladrovci, the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, and Deputy Prime Minister Hajredin Kuçi, accompanied by Ministers Fatmir Limaj and Enver Hoxhaj, laid a wreath and paid homage at the graves of the martyrs of Shkaba (formerly Gllana-sella) in Drenas.

In marking this commemoration, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hajredin Kuçi, and the Minister of Education, Enver Hoxhaj, took some time to inaugurate the building (annex) of the elementary school in Shkaba, which is named after hero “Xhevë Lladrovci”.

“The Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology are determined to create good conditions for learning, with the objective of increasing quality. I wish and believe that our youth will soon be equal to their peers anywhere in the world, with regards to their level of knowledge,” emphasized Deputy Prime Minister Hajredin Kuçi.

There are around 350 students at the elementary school of Shkaba, meanwhile the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has invested 100,000 euros.

Foundation stones were laid in three middle school of Prishtina and in an elementary school in Bardhosh.
The foundation stones are laid for three middle schools in Prishtina and the elementary school in Bardhosh

In the “Lakrishtë” Quarter of Prishtina, the erecting of the “Xhevdet Doda” high school began, as well did the building of two other middle schools, one near the Agricultural School and the other in the “Fusha e Pajtim” Quarter. Meanwhile, an elementary school will be built in Bardhosh. The investment value of these projects is around 7 million euros. The foundation stones of these schools were laid by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hajredin Kuçi, as well as by the Minister of MEST, Enver Hoxhaj.

“The best present that can be given to students, teachers and citizens of Prishtina are the investments that are being made in school infrastructure, which has the main goal of improving the quality of education,” emphasized Mr. Kuçi.

Deputy Prime Minister Kuçi congratulated the Minister of Education, Hoxhaj, who is fulfilling the plan forecasted for school infrastructure, which will be completed with the computerization of schools.

“The Government of the Republic of Kosovo will increase its determination in the upcoming years for school infrastructure, for education in general and for the improvement of the lives of citizens of Kosovo,” stressed the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo.

(Prishtina, November 15th, 2008)
Such as any other sphere of life in our society, justice as well, is in a transition process. It is a process with many challenges but it is promising. In these years following the conflict, many important steps were made, but there are still many roads before the end goal; to build and functionalize a justice system completely in accordance with democratic values. There are two standards which enable such a system: the complete rule of law and order and the equality of all citizens before the implementation of law and order. In orienting our institutional capacities and citizens in the fulfillment of these standards, we will be able to implement these two very important objectives of our society.

One objective has to do with the past, with its judicial heritage. The other objective is related to the present and to our future as a state and society. In established the complete rule of law and order and together with it, the equality of all citizens before law and order, regardless of social or ethnic differences, we will put an end to
long historical practices of selective justice and the influence of group characteristics in judicial decisions. Such judicial practices are very dangerous for a democratic society. There are dangerous because selective justice, instead of solving conflicts, cultivates them even greater. Selective justice ruins the citizens’ trust in the institutions. It is obvious that democratic institutions cannot function without this trust. The other objective has to do with the present and the future of our state. In establishing the complete rule of law and order, in establishing the equality of all citizens before law and order, regardless of social and ethnic differences, we create the surroundings for: all citizens of the country, all social groups and communities, to feel that the lawful state is of all the people and for all the people.

(Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi’s speech at the “Justice in transition” roundtable, organized by KIJAC (The Kosovo Institute of Journalism and Communication), Prishtina, May 27th, 2008)
We will not allow any part of the territory of the Republic of Kosovo to turn into an oasis of corruption, organized crime and smuggling.

The overarching goal and strategy of the Government which I direct is to ready the Republic of Kosovo for its Euro-Atlantic future, as a full member of the European Union and NATO. This goal will not be reached if corruption and organized crime are allowed to take root. It is clear that this type of country will not be welcome in Europe. This would also be unacceptable and intolerable for the institutions and citizens of Kosovo. Our determination for a more secure future for our citizens, as
GOOD GOVERNANCE

citizens of Europe, is firm. Likewise, our determination to fight negative phenomena, as one of the prerequisites for this future, is also firm.
Towards this end, our strategy is focused in two directions:
First, with our modern Constitution going into force, we have strengthened and are continuing to strengthen our anti-corruption legal base.
Secondly, we have to implement these legal measures, in cooperation with civil society and our international partners.
With the establishment of EULEX in the entire territory of Kosovo, we count on strong support in this fight against corruption.
The deployment of EULEX as a rule of law mission in the entire territory of Kosovo, respecting and strengthening the sovereignty of Kosovo, will help in the fight against corruption, organized crime and the informal economy.
A Kosovo united towards this goal and helped and advised by our international partners; will be able to confront such negative phenomena.
We will not allow any part of the territory of the Republic of Kosovo to turn into an oasis of corruption, organized crime and smuggling.
It is the duty and obligation of all to secure that, especially in the North of Kosovo, the citizens from there that want to respect the law and to live free from negative phenomena, will be able to do so.

The lack of the rule of law, the toleration of illegal parallel structures and the flourishing of corruption and smuggling disadvantages all of the citizens of Kosovo.

We will work closely with the EULEX mission in order to secure that the rule of law will be of equal value for all in the entire territory of Kosovo.

No one should or will be able to hide their narrow economic and criminal interests behind policies.
The state institutions of Kosovo, the broad political spectrum, and civil society gave a strong YES to the full deployment of EULEX.
At the same time, they said NO to the efforts of legalizing the illegal situation and to the weakening of the unitary functioning of our state.
Naturally, the institutions of Kosovo in general and the Ministry of Internal Affairs especially, besides the determination and readiness to fight negative phenomena, have undertaken concrete steps to implement this in practice.
The Kosovo Agency Against Corruption has to date submitted several cases to the public prosecutor. The Agency has also intervened in cases where a conflict of interest existed.
The Government recently approved the strategy for the integral management of the borders of our country. With the approval of the law on the police and the police inspectorate in February of this year, the Police of Kosovo now has a modern legal base to protect the people of Kosovo from the dangers of crime and other negative phenomena. Furthermore, the Government of Kosovo established as a priority the distressful problem of human trafficking in approving the anti-trafficking strategy and work plan and in initiating a campaign to fight against this.
Our efforts will be uncompromising towards the eradication of the negative phenomena of corruption, trafficking, smuggling and tax evasion.
Our success in fighting against these phenomena will greatly help in the creating of a positive image of Kosovo, as a democratic country, with the rule of law.
Only with this positive image will our country be able to attract foreign direct investment and be accepted as an equal member by the international community.
This is in our interest as state institutions, in the interest of all of our citizens, in the interest of the region and finally in the interest of the great investment of our friends and international partners.

(The Speech of the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, at the conference on the strategy for fighting corruption and organized crime. Prishtina, December 1st, 2008)
At the beginning of next year, the feasibility study process will begin; the process which will exhibit Kosovo’s progress and achievements towards the signing of the Stabilization and Association process. This is a very important process because only countries under serious consideration for the EU submit a feasibility study, therefore, we must be very proud of this” - stressed the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, at the Conference with the theme: “Towards a Legal Framework in Kosovo, in line with the Acquis Communautaire - perspectives, politics and techniques.” (November 13th, 2008)
Dear Citizens of the Republic of Kosovo,

Last night, my family was attacked.
Like any parent and spouse, I am happy that my family is well and safe.

Immediately last night, and during all of today, I received many messages of solidarity from the institutions and citizens of the country, as well as from many international institutions and friends.
Several of them came to meet me personally.

In my name and in the name of my family, I thank all for the respect and solidarity they showed. I wish that through this communication with you, I can secure for you that no one will have the power to harm independence, democratic order, the rule of law, the freedom and security of the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo.

Therefore, I request from all of the citizens that they continue to give their contribution for the empowering of our new state – so we protect our civic and political unity.

Only in unity, may we have success.

I request from all political forces that together we focus on our priorities for

No one will harm the freedom of our citizens
GOOD GOVERNANCE

state-building.
Within a few days, our country will have its own constitution.
The basic values of this highest judicial act are freedom, security, and citizens’ property.
No one will be able to threaten and harm these values.
No one and not even this attack will be able to stop our work towards Kosovo becoming a proud state within the European Community and NATO.
For us to make this into a reality, we have to work more towards fighting corruption and organized crime.
This bears dangers in it of itself.
However, I guarantee that I will continue this fight against that which is bad, with even more determination, for the good of the country and all of the citizens.
I as Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo will not stop in my obligations as a citizen and Prime Minister, not for any day or any moment, so that each family of Kosovo, each citizen of Kosovo, feels safe in their property, in their home, and in their homeland.

(Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo Hashim Thaçi’s press conference, June 7th, 2008)
With the initiative of Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo earmarked 20 thousand euros in aid for Sami Haliti’s family in the town of Jezerc in the Municipality of Ferizaj, which incurred tragedy from the fire that erupted in their home and the two children of this family that lost their lives.

(Prishtina, October 8th, 2008)
The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, evaluated the year 2008 as a year of historical success for Kosovo, for its people and institutions. Based on the initiative of Prime Minister Thaçi, the Government approved a decision for the earmarking of 100 thousand euros for the compensation of the individual property damages of the citizens in North Mitrovica, from the turmoil afflicted in the days past.

(Prishtina, January 9th, 2009)
Prime Minister Thaçi: One thousand apartments and houses being usurped by Serbs will be vacated

“Around one thousand apartments and houses being illegally usurped by Serbs in the North of Mitrovica will be vacated from these usurpers according to the European standards which were applied to the South of this city as well, in order for every citizen to return to their own property,” declared the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, in the North of Mitrovica.

Prime Minister Thaçi said that the Government of the Republic of Kosovo discussed this project in meetings with the Quint countries as well.

With the initiative of Prime Minister Thaçi, the Government earmarks 10 thousand euros to citizen Ali Kadriu for the repair of his home in the North of Mitrovica

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, during his stay at the Municipality of Mitrovica, together with the leaders of this Municipality, inaugurated four paved roads, the paving of which was completed recently. On this occasion, Prime Minister Thaçi said that within the framework of encouraging people to return to their property, he has decided, as a first activity, to give 10 thousand euros to citizen Ali Kadriu for his home in the “Kroi i Vitakut” Quarter.

Furthermore, Mr. Thaçi mentioned that there will be free movement and security for each citizen in Kosovo, so that they may live where they wish to. Prime Minister Thaçi, accompanied by the Minister of Transport and Telecommunication, Fatmir Limaj, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Bedri Hamza, the Mayor of the Municipality of Mitrovica, Bajram Rexhepi, and other co-workers, said to the residents of Vinarc that the plans of the Republic of Kosovo and the projects of the institutions of Kosovo are not related to the dark projects
of Belgrade for Kosovo and that our country has developmental projects that create perspectives for our citizens.

“Only today, we have had four road inaugurations, which will influence the betterment of the lives of citizens, regardless. We are determined to build a democratic Kosovo and we are very committed to work also with the internationals and towards this end, there will be rapid and concrete movement in order for the North to begin to change in the best possible meaning of the word,” expressed Prime Minister Thaçi.

**We are changing Kosovo for the better**

Meanwhile, to the citizens of Vinarc, gathered to greet the occasion of the inauguration of the paved roads,
Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi said that he feels good to be in the company of these citizens in the North of Mitrovica and that on this occasion, very good work has been done.

“The implementation of the projects we promised and the building and implementation of other projects will only increase in the North of Kosovo, such as in our entire territory. We are changing Kosovo for the better, we are modernizing Kosovo and this will open up a good perspective for rapid economic development and the employment of the youth, in order for every citizen of Kosovo to feel good, no matter where they live, to feel good in the new state of Kosovo, in a state of peace, a state with a perspective for economic development, to quickly integrate into NATO and the European Union,” said Prime Minister Thaçi.

**In Mitrovica, there is more investment than ever before**

For his part, The Minister for Transport and Telecommunication, Fatmir Limaj, said that the Government of Kosovo considers road infrastructure in the entire territory of Kosovo a special priority, and specifically the Northern part of Kosovo.

“With pleasure, I declare that only this year, we have invested more than five million euros in road infrastructure for the Municipality of Mitrovica. Today, we are at the inauguration of four roads, other roads are beginning and continuing to be built,” said Mr. Limaj.

Meanwhile, the Mayor of the Municipality of Mitrovica, Bajram Rexhepi, thanked the central Government and in particular, the Ministry of Transport, that have made it so it is invested more than ever before in Mitrovica.

The inaugurated road that connects the Albanian towns north of the Iber River, Gushafc-Vinarc i Ulet, with a length of 2,500 meters, cost around 300,000 euros, the one which connects “Sami Gashi” with “By Pass”, with a length of 2 kilometers cost 270,000 euros, the “Ilaz Kodra” road in Shipol, with a value of around 180,000 euros and the road in Kciq i Madh, has a length of near 4 kilometers and cost around 460,000 euros.

*(Mitrovica, November 15th, 2008)*
26 families were housed in the center for social residence in Gjilan

Prime Minister Thaçi, on the occasion of the inauguration of this building, stated that this residential center built by the Government and the Municipality of Gjilan, where those benefiting are members of different communities, is a very good message of the support in the Municipality of Gjilan. Prime Minister Thaçi, before those present and the benefiting families, said that this is only the beginning of the determination of the Government of Kosovo to make big positive changes for the lives and the well-being of our citizens. “This important building, where 26 families
with poor social conditions are being housed, as well as other infrastructural projects in general, will be only the beginning of our great determination, for a better life for all of our citizens.”

596,743 euros were invested in this project; these financial instruments were provided by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and by the Municipality of Gjilan.

The inaugurated building is dedicated to families which up until today, lived and resided under seriously poor conditions, specifically for those who lived in the temporary centers for collective residence.
Five patients with heart illness were successfully operated on in the University Clinical Center

The Italian team for cardiological surgery from the San Donato Italian hospital of Milan successfully carried out five heart operations, 3 for children and 2 for adults. The operations were done in the University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK) with the support of local staff. The Italian cardiological surgeons, led by Dr. Xhuzepe Pome and Silvija Qiri as well as other members of the staff including Dr. Bekim Dula, Dr. Shkelzen Muriqi, Dr. Vigan Sadriu as well as surgeons from UCCK which are two carry out three other cardiological surgery operations. The personnel who were involved in the operations are around 20 health professionals from Italy and from UCCK. The operations went according to plan and were carried out with full success. This form of cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the San Donato Hospital is expected to continued in the future, the accessibility and pre-imminence of these operations was multi-dimensional and with a comprehensive interest. The Ministry of Health is determined for the subspecialist services to be also developed in Kosovo.

(Prishtina, 25.6.2008)
The Program for Treatment Abroad marked a considerable increase in the number of patients treated as well as in its budget during 2008. The program is implemented in accordance with Administrative Instruction 7/2003. During 2008, cases left from past years were treated, respectively the requests from the year 2003 up until the 2007. The approved budget for treatment abroad for 2008 was 500 thousand euros, with a Government decision, an additional 2 million euros were dedicated to this program, of which 98.78% were spent. Since the founding of the Program for Treatment Abroad in 2003, around 1.500 patients were treated with serious illnesses. The most common cases of illness were cardiological, oncological, ophthalmological, orthopedical, etc. (Prishtina, 30.12.2008)
Inspections functioning on the implementation of laws

During 2008, the inspectors of the Ministry of Health, the Sanitary Inspectorate, health and pharmaceutical inspectors developed thousands of inspections functioning on the implementation of laws, the supervising of the implementation of laws and the improvement of the health services at the state level.

The Inspections of the Sanitary Inspectorate of Kosovo

The Sanitary Inspectorate of Kosovo completed 7022 inspections in total, the SIK issued 6285 transactions, issued 1002 decisions, gave 1039 sanitary recommendations, 167 samples, made 301 summonses, developed 710 technical admissions, DDD – 20 cases, order sheets for 550 cases and issued 44 Sanitary Certificates.

Inspections from the Health Inspectorate

Inspections: in the institute of medical work-3, the Center for Community Mental Health-7 inspections, the National Center for Blood Transfusion in Kosovo-6 inspections, Kosovo University Clinical Center for Dentistry-5 inspections, National Emergency Center-1 inspection, “QDK”-10 inspections, Special Health Institute-5 inspections, Health Services in the Corrective Service of Kosovo-1 inspection, Health Services in the Kosovo Protection Corps-1 inspection, inspections of public institutions-47, inspections of private institutions-100, 59 specific inspections were developed.

Inspections from the Pharmaceutical Inspectorate


(Prishtina, 18.12.2008)
SECURING HEALTHY FOOD – A GOVERNMENT PRIORITY
Activities undertaken in the field of Agriculture

• The protection of agricultural land from unplanned urban building and the sustainable utilization of this land;
• The unfinished regulation of the consolidation from the years 83-89, the solving of property issues and the registration of current property owners in the Immovable Property Rights Register (IPRR) in several municipalities of Kosovo;
• The establishment of the information system on land resources for the sustainable utilization of land;
• The defining of building and agricultural zones in rural areas and the improvement of the environmental state in the Klina municipality /pilot project/
• The Preparation of Local Development Strategies;
• Support for sustainable rural development;
• The implementation of the project for farm subsidies for farmers in the amount of 520,000 euros;
• The supply of satisfactory advice and training for at least 12,000 farms during the entire year, with the objective of increasing productivity, decreasing costs for production units, achieving quality production which is healthy and competitive in the market;
• The project for advisory services, “the Development of Rural Areas through Advancing Advisory Services;”

Food, Public Health and Veterinary Safety

For the protection of public and veterinary safety, during this time period, private veterinary practices have been distributed:

55,000 vaccines for Rabies,
110,000 tablets (Praziquantel) against endoparasites,
18,000 vaccine doses against Anthrax, 50,000 vaccine doses against the classic swine plague, 1,600,000 vaccine doses against chicken plague (commercial farmers), 15807 blood samples were taken (from bovine, sheep, goats, and birds) for research, monitoring, and for the diagnosing of animal diseases, with regards to Food Safety, 512 samples in total were made for the national plan for the monitoring of residues, 855 samples from the Phytosanitary Border Inspec-
tors, and 922 samples from the Veterinary Border Inspectors. All of these services which were free for farmers, have the monetary value of 1.000.000 euros, and were financed by the BKK. These following projects were prepared and proposed:

• The development of sheep cultivation through the intensification of the utilization of pasturage,
• The regression of heifers,
• The subsidizing of milk,
• The fish cultivation of waters,
• The increase of public markets for livestock,
• The improvement of infrastructure for the treatment of organic fertilizer in stockbreeding farms.

The project was implemented for the bovine racial improvement and with the proceeds from the budget in the amount of 100,000 euros, were distributed in a form of a back pay to the farmers who breed heifers of pure races as well as local ones which are used as a biologic material for race improvement. 317 farmers have benefited from this project for 1000 pieces of cattle.

5000 hectares of agricultural land were put in the irrigation system

The project for the rehabilitation of irrigation systems for 2008 is of special importance since the capital investments for the project are from the Fund of the Consolidated Budget of the Republic of Kosovo. Throughout 2008, capital investments were achieved in the amount of 450.000 euros (300.000 euros were planned for the year 2008 and over 150.000 euros were investments that were not realized during 2007 and therefore achieved for the year 2008).

To date, these projects have been completed:

• The Rehabilitation of Osmanaj artificial dam in Prekalla of Burim;
• the building of the artificial dam in Shishman and Jablinica of Gjakova;
• the building of the artificial dam in Grabanica of Klina;
the secondary and tertiary irrigation system in Nashec-Grazhdanik of Prizren;
seven water distribution points (containers) in Junik;
a part of the irrigation system in Drenas which was achieved in cooperation with KU Iber-Lepenc;
The rehabilitation of the water canals in: Bruznik
– Vushtrri, in Dajkovc of Kamenica and Skifteraj and Mogilla of Viti; are in progress and should be completed by the middle of December. In the field of the productivity of vegetable safeguarding, these draft proposals have been completed:
• During this year, 5000 hectares of agricultural land were put in the irrigation system. After the rehabilitation that MBPZHR achieved in the irrigation system and in the comprehensive inclusion of arable lands in this system, these projects were proposed:
  • The draft proposal for the rehabilitation of irrigation systems for 30,000 hectares,
  • The draft proposal for the cultivation of 810 hectares with fruit trees and small fruits,
  • The draft proposal for the cultivation of 133 hectares of land with greenhouses,
  • The draft proposal for the improvement of the variety grape-vine structure in Kosovo through the cultivation of 1,500 hectares of vineyards,
  • The draft proposal for the improvement of road infrastructure in the vineyard region of Kosovo,
• The draft proposal for the cultivation of mother vineyards for sub-grafts and over-grafts in an area of 10 hectares,
• The draft proposal for the equipping and functioning of the laboratory for the Vineyards and Wines Institute,
• The draft proposal for the cultivation of an experimental vineyard,
• The draft proposal for the vineyard cadastral and wine industry (in implementation),
• The draft proposal for the subsidizing seed producers.

The Ministry of Agriculture of Kosovo signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture of Croatia

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development of the Republic of Croatia, represented by Božidar Pankretić Ma.sc. and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development of the Re-
public of Kosovo, represented by Dr.sc. Idriz Vehapi today signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the empowerment of the continuation of work in fields of shared interest that are related to the process prior to entering the European Union (IPARD). This memorandum includes in it of itself, the strategic objectives of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Kosovo for membership in the EU, and it will strengthen the close relations in the field for the best utilization of the funds, prior to entering, for rural development in the European Union. This is the first agreement signed abroad at the state Ministry level with an EU candidate state, such as Croatia.

**Institutional Support for Businesses**

With an aim of improving physical infrastructure of SME’s and providing incentives to new enterprises, the development of existing ones and attraction of foreign investments, the program of work space has been developed, including:

“Industrial Zones”, “Business Parks”, “Business Incubators” and “Cluster Businesses”. This year, MTI commenced with the realization of another business incubator in the Industrial Park in Drenas. Stages of feasibility study and the main project and its revision are concluded and we are expecting the beginning of its physical construction. The Industrial Park in Drenas, together with the Industrial Zone, represents the biggest capital project of MTI, which is a continuation of the project from last years and at present we are implementing the third stage. The Industrial Zone Master Plan has been developed, in cooperation with AER, integrating the entire zone of 123 hectares, including the Business Park in Drenas, which will have a great influence on the economic development of the country. The building of the “Business Park” in Mitrovica includes an area of 3.5 hectares, from which 22 businesses have benefited. The establishment of the Central Metrology Laboratory of Kosovo – CMLK was completed. The project is in the stage of construction of the premises and by the end of December 2008, the skeleton is expected to be completed.
The international recognition of the state of Kosovo

The declaration of Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state and international recognition has opened Kosovo’s path to membership, on a contractual basis, of international and regional organizations. The Kosovar Government made all the necessary preparations so that, in the shortest possible time frame, it could apply for membership in the most important financial organizations; the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization. The political aim of the Kosovar Government is for Kosovo to be a member of the United Nations in the near future. However, the strategic aspiration of Kosovo’s institutions remains integration in Euro-Atlantic structures, and membership in the European Union and NATO. To this end, during all of 2008, Prime Minister Thaçi followed a packed high-level diplomatic agenda in Washington, New York, London, Brussels, Rome and other key European centers, and had meetings with senior officials from Western governments. Prime Minister Thaçi presented the Kosovar Government’s vision for the country’s future to EU foreign ministers. In the European Foreign Ministers’ meeting with their equivalents from the Western Balkans in Brdo in Slovenia, the Republic of Kosovo was represented by a state delegation from Kosovo led by Prime Minister Thaçi. In a speech given in the Brdo summit, Prime Minister Thaçi presented the Kosovar Government’s vision for the country’s future, and confirmed the commitment of Republic of Kosovo institutions to implementing President Ahtisaari’s proposals for Kosovo as an independent, democratic and multi-ethnic state where the rights of all communities are to be respected. Prime Minister Thaçi asked for even greater support for re-establishing the economy, and opening up a future for greater employment, especially for the young, as a precondition for integration into European Union structures.
In February 9th, Prime Minister Thaçi held a meeting with the European Union Representative for Foreign Policy and Security, Mr. Javier Solana, whom he thanked for the contribution made to peace in Kosovo, for creating a new reality and stability in the region. Mr. Solana expressed his hope that the joy and energy he had seen on the streets of Kosovo [during the independence celebrations] would be transformed into positive energy for developing society and into protecting the freedom and the rights of minority communities who live in the country, as well as in the areas of economy, security etc., adding that “the EU will be here, a European future is here and our people will work with Kosovar institutions for the rule of law and for economic development.” In March, Prime Minister Thaçi held a warm meeting with the American Under-Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia, Mr. Daniel Fried, who brought congratulations from President Bush and Secretary of State Rice for Kosovo as an independent, sovereign and democratic state, as well as for the progress achieved in Kosovo. These congratulations were accompanied with a commitment to a Kosovo with equal opportunities, the rule of law and for an indivisible Kosovo which could have a vision of integration in the European Union and in NATO as well building good neighborly relations with all countries in the region. Under-secretary Fried said that it was an honor and a pleasure to be in the newest country in Europe, in the newest democracy in the world, in the Republic of Kosovo. Prime Minister Thaçi gave his heartfelt thanks on behalf of Republic of Kosovo.
institutions and citizens for the swift recognition of Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state, as well as for the extraordinary contribution made by the United States of America to the freedom and independence of Kosovo. On March 8th, Prime Minister Thaçi met the Foreign Minister of Switzerland, Mrs. Michelle Calmy-Rey, whom he thanked for the recognition by the Swiss state of the Republic of Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state. Mrs. Calmy-Rey said that her country, Switzerland, would extend their collaboration in the area of economic development, improving democratic institutions and the rule of law, public infrastructure, especially in the energy and water sector, and in projects to support all communities most of all. With great pleasure, Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi accepted Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey’s invitation to make an official visit to Switzerland. On the invitation of the American President, George W Bush, Prime Minister Thaçi made his first state visit after the declaration of independence to the United States of America, a historic visit of support for the independence of Kosovo. In his meeting with President George W. Bush, with Secretary
Condoleezza Rice, and with Defense secretary Robert Gates, Prime Minister Thaçi made very clear how powerful American support had been for the Independence of Kosovo. Prime Minister Thaçi also made an important visit to London where he met the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and the Foreign Minister David Miliband. Prime Minister Thaçi had a meeting arranged for him in Rome by the Foreign Minister Francesco Frattini. Prime Minister Thaçi received tens of official letters of recognition of the independence of the Republic of Kosovo from a variety of states and hosted very senior international officials. Prime Minister Thaçi also signed a series of international agreements on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo.
In its 40th meeting, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo approved the 2008-2010 Plan for European Integration. The approval of this plan represents an important step on the road to European integration, as well as progress towards the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement. The 2008-2010 Plan for European Integration is made up of the following documents: the Action Plan of the European Partnership for Kosovo, strengthening the mechanisms for managing the integration process; the concept document for aligning legislation with that of the EU; a concept document for preparation of the national plan; the information and communication strategy and the strategy for training.

(Prishtina, April 3rd, 2008)
In my first days as Prime Minister I took steps to get closer to non-Albanian communities. I am proud to tell you that I have already named two of my fellow-citizens who are Serbian and one Turk as Ministers in my Government. I have decided to open a special Office for Communities within my Office, with special responsibility for the issue of property. I am committed to finding new ways to communicate with Serbian citizens and other communities. Minorities in Kosovo are not a burden or a special case in our society; they are a part of the heart of our society, and their presence among us increases and enriches our society, our culture and our country. We now know that true peace is not only the absence of conflict, but the triumph of freedom and democratic values. The United Nations can be proud of Kosovo. We reaffirm our desire to move forward, based on the plan of the UN special envoy for Kosovo, President Marti Ahtisaari. His plan offers us the chance to make Kosovo a more democratic country, a multi-ethnic society fully integrated in European structures. His recommendation for supervised independence recognizes the fact that on the one hand the tragic, violent and forced fragmentation of Yugoslavia, and on the other, the ethnic cleansing and period of international administration have made it impossible for Kosovo and Serbia to live in one country. The Ahtisaari document also offers a detailed plan for guaranteeing the security and rights of minorities in Kosovo, a plan which we are committed to implementing fully.

(Excerpts from the speech of Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi to the members of the UN Security Council, New York, January 16th, 2008)
INTERNATIONAL DONORS SUPPORT THE PROJECTS OF THE KOSOVO GOVERNMENT
Prime Minister Thaçi: The Donors’ Conference marks our new vision for Kosovo’s development

We are securely set on our road to becoming part of the European Union as a democratic, multi-ethnic and modern republic. We are excited, enthused and motivated as a society to make the changes which will enable the realization of our goal. We want your assistance in continuing to build our new economy which needs great help. In partnership with you, Kosovo has taken many constructive steps in preparation of adequate policies, in creating an adequate legal framework, an adequate institutional environment, and in drafting concrete programs. Our four key policies are economic growth, successful implementation of the status agreement, good governance, the rule of law and social stability. The people of Kosovo are committed to show the international community that our new state offers great opportunities. We will do everything possible to ensure that Kosovo is a success story for us, for our friends, for the United States of America, the European Union, NATO and the whole world. Kosovo is a new country of new opportunities. Kosovo believes in its future. And Kosovo will come out a winner in the future because it has the benefit of your partnership and your support.

The speech of Mr. Hashim Thaçi, the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, at the Kosovo Donors’ Conference held in Brussels on 11th July 2008
Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi’s first state visit, after the declaration of independence, to the United States of America

Prime Minister Thaçi: The permanent bond between the American people and the people of Kosovo

Today’s meeting with President Bush was not only a strengthening of relations between Kosovo and the United States of America, but a lifelong bond between the people of Kosovo and those of America. We have always believed in the United States of America and this pro-American stance in Kosovo is a sign of respect for the United States of America, the cradle of world civilization. The institutions and people of Kosovo will always bow with the greatest respect for you, Mr. President, the United States of America, and the American people. Kosovo is a joint success story. We are building Kosovo as a democratic country, a land of opportunities, with positive opportunities for minorities. We will develop Kosovo economically; we will build excellent relations with all of our neighbors and in the democratic future we will do so with Serbia as well. Our aim as an independent, sovereign and democratic state is to be part of NATO and the European Union and to have excellent lifelong relations with the United States of America. This is our commitment, our duty and our vision.

(Washington, July 21st, 2008)
Thank you Madame Secretary for the powerful support which the United States of America has given Kosovo and its people.

Today Kosovo is an independent, sovereign and democratic state; it’s a land of peace, stability and with the chance of developing in the future. Kosovo has excellent co-operation with all countries in the region: with Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and we believe that in the near democratic future, also with Serbia. In the six-month period after independence, Kosovo has achieved progress which has been hailed by the entire democratic world. This is a historic visit and meeting, because it is the first Kosovar state delegation to visit Washington. As an expression of our new pledge to Kosovo’s progress, there are naturally also new responsibilities which we will take on for the state of Kosovo, which will be part of the Euro-Atlantic family, a part of NATO and the European Union and will always have excellent relations with the USA. Kosovo and the people of Kosovo pay homage to the American government and people for their support.

(Statement of Hashim Thaçi, Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo in the press conference following the meeting with the American Secretary of State, Mrs. Condoleezza Rice, Washington, July 18th, 2008)
Kosovo’s leaders, Prime Minister Thaçi and President Sejdiu, are received at the Pentagon with the highest state honors

With the highest honor paid to statesmen of independent countries and with an official military escort, the leaders of Kosovo, Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi and President Fatmir Sejdiu, were greeted at the entrance to the Pentagon. The American Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, hosted the leaders of the Kosovar state in the visit which marked the first bilateral meeting between the two independent countries; this was held at the Pentagon. The reception with full honors of President Sejdiu and Prime Minister Thaçi showed once again the American commitment to helping independent Kosovo’s progress in all areas. After the meetings in Washington, Hashim Thaçi, the
Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, said that he considered that Kosovo, an independent, sovereign and democratic state, was a land of peace, stability and with a future of development ahead of it. “Kosovo has excellent collaboration with all countries in the region; with Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and we believe, in the near democratic future, also with Serbia,” said Mr. Thaçi. Prime Minister Thaçi said that the Kosovar delegation was committed to progress, but recognized the new responsibilities which came first. “Kosovo and the Kosovar people,” said Prime Minister Thaçi, “pay homage to the American government and people for their support.”

(Washington, July 19th, 2008)

Every Kosovar citizen can feel proud of the excellent relationships between Kosovo and the United States of America

“We informed President Bush of the successes which have been jointly achieved in Kosovo, about the democratic rule we are building, the democratic and effective functioning of our institutions, the establishment of good governance, about our pledge to build a legal infrastructure in line with Western standards and criteria, about our pledge for the rule of law, the uncompromising war on corruption and organized crime, about our pledge that Kosovo will be an active part of the war on terror, wherever it may appear,” said Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi. “Our promise is that every bit of support for Kosovo will contribute to an even greater sense of responsibility for us,” said Prime Minister Thaçi. “Every Kosovar citizen can feel good and feel proud of the excellent relationships between Kosovo and the United States of America,” said Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi to journalists at a press conference after his return from Washington.

(Prishtina, July 23rd, 2008)
Kosovo’s most senior state delegation visits Great Britain

In the meetings which Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, President Fatmir Sejdiu and Foreign Minister Skender Hyseni had with the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Gordon Brown, and the Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, the representatives of the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo first thanked British Prime Minister Brown, Foreign Minister Miliband and the British Government for their care and commitment for Kosovo and its people. “Together with the USA, Great Britain has always been at the forefront of the processes for Kosovo’s freedom and independence, so we would like to express our gratitude and our greatest respect for everything that the British state has done for the Republic of Kosovo and its people,” said Hashim Thaçi, the Prime Minister of the
Government of the Republic of Kosovo. As this visit was envisaged to take place earlier, because of the commitments in the last two weeks related to the 6 points of the head of the UN on the subject of the establishment of the EULEX mission in Kosovo, representatives of Kosovo’s institutions found an opportunity and appropriate time to explain once more to the British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, the position of Kosovo’s institutions in relation to the 6-point plan and their proposals formulated in four points, which they had submitted to the American Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Daniel Fried, who had been in Kosovo. Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi once again confirmed the position that Kosovo welcomed the EULEX mission in Kosovo and that it was in favor of the extension of this mission across the entire territory of Kosovo. However, Prime Minister Thaçi also said that since February 17th, Kosovo had been an independent and sovereign state and after June 15th, it had had the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo and all international missions must respect normal constitutional acts of the sovereign state of Kosovo. British Prime Minister Brown and Foreign Minister Miliband said they understood
the official Pristina position and said they appreciated the position of the leaders of Kosovo’s institutions on cooperating with EULEX and the international community in Kosovo’s future processes. In this meeting, Prime Minister Brown and Foreign Minister Miliband also expressed their personal commitment and that of the British Government to help the new independent state of Kosovo in North Atlantic and European integration.

(London, November 20th, 2008)
Mr. Thaçi speaks first about the importance of this first official visit in his role as Prime Minister of Kosovo after Kosovo’s declaration of independence.

**Prime Minister Thaçi:** I have often visited Great Britain, both during and before the war. There were meetings which led to the powerful support of Great Britain for Kosovo, for a new state, a multi-ethnic society’s democratic state, a country of peace and stability which shows excellent regional collaboration and has a Euro-Atlantic future. In Kosovo we are a part of the international community, an important part. Kosovo’s success is a joint success, and Great Britain played a key role both in Kosovo’s freedom and in Kosovo’s co-coordinated declaration of independence.

**BBC:** What differences do you notice in the relationship with the authorities now that you are the Prime Minister of Kosovo; how have they received you?
Prime Minister Thaçi: My reception and everything is in the context of respect between two governments. This is something new because Kosovo is a new country, but the support is no different, the extraordinary support from Great Britain continues. We have now built the friendship and policies of quite an effective partnership. You know that in Kosovo, people have a very good impression of Great Britain, of the role and great respect that Great Britain had for our people’s process of struggle and sacrifice for freedom and a country.

BBC: Mr. Thaçi, how would you describe the aim of this visit?

Prime Minister Thaçi: The aim is to increase our cooperation. It was made on the invitation of Prime Minister Brown. I think that our cooperation will extend across all governmental areas, a cooperation that has existed before now, but within established limits. Now, however, our cooperation will be at an inter-governmental level.

BBC: The British ambassador to Kosovo, Andy Sparks, told the BBC that the issue of the EULEX mission will be resolved through talks. What will you say to the British authorities?

Prime Minister Thaçi: Kosovo welcomed EULEX, it invited EULEX into Kosovo. We will co-operate very closely to establish EULEX across the entire territory of Kosovo. The six points presented recently are entirely unacceptable. Now Kosovo has four points of its own which foresee EULEX’ spread across the whole territory of the Republic of Kosovo. 

BBC: What are you expecting the British response to be, as far as EULEX is concerned?

Prime Minister Thaçi: Great Britain has been an important part of the international community in supporting Kosovo. EULEX has the backing of the European Union to come and be established in Kosovo, that decision must be respected also in relation to the decision for the declaration of Kosovo as an independent and democratic state, in accordance with the new modern Constitution of Kosovo, with the Ahtisaari document, and the reality of the future which we are ushering in today.

(BBC, November 20th, 2008)
Kosovo has entered an important phase of economic development, security has increased and the rule of law is facilitating the ongoing improvement of life in Kosovo. Kosovo’s institutions are fulfilling their responsibilities with a high level of commitment and have welcomed the arrival of EULEX in Kosovo; certain that its mission will extend across the entire territory, said the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi. Speaking of the achievements in the international arena, Prime Minister Thaçi met with the Italian Foreign Minister, Franco Frattini. At this meeting Prime Minister Thaçi presented Kosovo’s achievements on the domestic front as well as internationally.
Thaçi told the Italian Foreign Minister, Frattini, about the progress in the process of recognition of the state of Kosovo. An independent and sovereign Kosovo is a factor for stability in the region and is fulfilling all the conditions to become a member of Euro-Atlantic institutions, of NATO and the EU, said Prime Minister Thaçi. Prime Minister Thaçi thanked the Italian government for the help they had given in the past and today and told Minister Frattini that he was looking for Italian investors to invest in Kosovo, because Kosovo has great potential and resources which make it suitable for Italian capital. The Italian Foreign Minister, Franco Frattini, thanked Prime Minister Thaçi and expressed respect for his leadership of Kosovo in this important phase. He said he valued the work of the Thaçi government as a multi-ethnic government and that he considered Kosovo had made good progress in the area of the rule of law. Mr. Frattini promised Prime Minister Thaçi an intensification of bilateral relations between Italy and Kosovo, and called on Italian investors to invest in Kosovo. The Italian Foreign Minister also assured Prime Minister Thaçi that Italian diplomacy would work in those countries where it has influence for the recognition of the independent and democratic state of Kosovo, because Kosovo is a factor for peace and stability in the region and beyond.

(Rome, October 21st, 2008)
Community rights are the special focus of Kosovo’s institutions. In accordance with the Kosovar Constitution and with the Ahtisaari plan, all communities in Kosovo will have equal rights and some of the rights designed for the Serbian community in relation to cultural and religious heritage are unique. The results of this approach are their participation in the institutional life of Kosovo, in Government and the Assembly,” said Prime Minister Thaçi. Economic development and the potential which Kosovo has was the main focus of Hashim Thaçi, the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo: “Kosovo has already established a healthy basis for a free market economy and has created an adequate legal infrastructure which enables serious investment and economic growth. All investors should consider Kosovo as an ideal place for investment, in a variety of sectors, particularly in the energy, mining, infrastructure, agricultural sectors, etc. The other priority of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is membership of international financial institutions. This will enable faster and more sustainable economic growth for Kosovo.

(June 27th, 2008)
Kosovo is a new country and has its place in Europe. Kosovo is a success story for us and for the international community. We will transform this success story into an economic success story,” said Prime Minister Thaçi, and added that “the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is committed to provide good governance, the rule of law and order, multi-ethnicity and an uncompromising war against corruption and organized crime.” Prime Minister Thaçi articulated his position on continuing the Kosovar Government’s joint work with the European Commission and with other international partners to build an inspiring future for Kosovo and its people.

(Brussels, 11th July 2008)
EU SUPPORTS THE VISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KOSOVO
Prime Minister Thaçi and the Commissioner for EU enlargement sign the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance Agreement

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi said that he felt honored to be signing the Finance Agreement which forms part of the European Union’s Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). Prime Minister Thaçi said that the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance enables Kosovo as a potential candidate for EU membership to have help in strengthening democratic institutions, the rule of law, public administration reform, promotion of human rights, as well as achieving common commitments with all internationals. 56 per cent of these resources will be for socio-economic issues, 26 per cent for fulfilling political criteria in Kosovo, 9 per cent for support services and 8 per cent for bringing laws into line with EU legislation, said Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi. Kosovo will benefit from part of the 4.2 billion euros of EU assistance for South Eastern Europe, depending on the presentation of projects. The IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) is an EU pre-membership instrument for countries who are aiming for European integration. It is assistance for countries who are candidates for EU membership. The amount planned for Kosovo’s institutions this year is 122.7 million euros. This sum is specified for Kosovo’s special needs after the resolution of status. The amount envisaged to be allocated in the coming year will be 66 million for 2009 and 67.3 million for 2010.

(Prishtina, October 9th, 2008)
EU SUPPORTS THE VISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KOSOVO

Kosovo is a success story, not just for Kosovars but also for the international community

I am proud to lead a Government which is professional and very multi-ethnic: two Ministers of my Cabinet are from the Serbian community and one from the Turkish community, and it includes Deputy Ministers from almost all communities. And recently I have established an Office for Community Issues which will report to me directly and will be a point for nothing other than working on the daily problems of minority communities. The main challenges before us are to integrate all communities in both institutions and society, and to set Kosovo on a healthy economic base which will attract the amount of direct foreign investment we need, which will then create jobs and a suitably dignified life for all communities in Kosovo. The international community is welcomed to oversee and monitor our progress. Our goal is the Euro-
EU SUPPORTS THE VISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KOSOVO

The European Union, and the EU has the capacity to open doors for us and other European states who share the same values. De facto, Kosovo now feels part of the EU and NATO. It is for exactly that reason that we invited the EU to send a mission on the rule of law to support us and help us to build our country. We depend greatly on the support of the EU to help us to put Kosovo on the foundations of the rule of law. Europe is welcome in Kosovo and will always be. What we need now is a local economy, social development and regional integration in the spirit of EU integration. Europe spoke with one voice on Kosovo. This became the EU’s irreplaceable role in Kosovo and in the whole region. I say this openly and on behalf of the citizens of Kosovo who strongly support Kosovo’s European future. Kosovo is a success story not only for Kosovars but also for the international community. It is impossible to imagine the progress we have made now without the role played by the European Union in the Balkans and in particular in Kosovo in the past decade. Billions of euros in the form of aid, rebuilding and thousands of soldiers, police and civilian experts have been the key to the return of peace and the building of the foundations for democratic institutions and economic development.

(The Speech of the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo at the 2008 Europe Forum in Ljubljana, Slovenia)
EU SUPPORTS THE VISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KOSOVO

Kosovo working on ensuring a favorable position in the stream of international politics

The declaration of independence by the Parliament of Kosovo on February 17th, 2008 represents a historical date and a new era for the people of Kosovo. The recognition of Kosovo’s independence by 22 European Union member states reflects the embracing of the western values for the peace and democracy of nations worldwide and the right of the people for self-determination and to create an environment where the rule of law prevails. The Government of the Republic of Kosovo, by proving its political maturity, is insisting on the trans-
EU Supports the Vision of the Government of Kosovo

fer of all the responsibilities from the United Nations mission to the local institutions in accordance with the plan proposed by President Ahtisaari and upon the entrance into force of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo on June 15th, 2008, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is ready to govern throughout the entire territory of Kosovo and to create a safe and secure environment for all the people of Kosovo, an environment where rule of law prevails and where the welfare of the citizens of Kosovo is guaranteed. We want to show the world that our independence is not and will not be a threat to our neighbors or to the wider region, but on the contrary it will be a factor of stability and instrumental to the European Agenda.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo is committed, based on the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo to working on the implementation of the strategic objectives and state policies and to ensure a favorable position in the stream of international politics. We pledge to fulfill all the obligations from the European Partnership as soon as we can. We have indicated this with the drafting and implementation of the European Partnership Action Plan. We are determined to implement all the obligations deriving from the European Partnership on time. Over the recent months, it has been a priority of the Government of Kosovo to draft the European Partnership Action Plan, the third in a row and adoption of the 2008-2011 European Integration Plan on the establishing of the advanced structures for an efficient implementation of the actions foreseen in the plan. We are aware that the next step, Kosovo’s challenge in the process of attaining European Union membership and to convince you, the European Commission and the Member States, of our willingness and our strong political commitment (and a realistic and good understanding), to enter the next stage in the process, to have the launch of the Feasibility Study and the STM negotiations and later on start negotiations on the Stabilization and Association Agreement in line with the regular procedures.

(Highlights from the address of Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi in the 14th meeting of the Stabilization Association Tracking Mechanism, Prishtina, May 29th, 2008)
EU SUPPORTS THE VISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KOSOVO

Deputy Prime Minister Kuçi: The Government will support the recommendations of FRIDOM for a functional review

The Commission for the Reform of Public Administration, directed by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, held a regular meeting. On this occasion, the representatives of the FRIDOM project presented the results of the functional review of public administration. At the opening of the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Hajredin Kuçi thanked the British Government for their support of the reforms of public administration.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo expressed that he is pleased with the findings of the FRIDOM project, affirming that the Government of Kosovo will support the recommendations because it is interested in an efficient and modern administration with European standards.

(Prishtina, November 14th, 2008)
A delegation of the European Parliament consisting of members of the EP’s Committee on Budgetary Control was received in a meeting by Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Ramë Manaj. During the meeting there was discussion on various topics related to the current developments in Kosovo, with a special focus on the effects of the funds that the EU has allocated for Kosovo so far, and the expectations of the Government of Kosovo with regards to further enhancing of this cooperation, namely the financial support from the EU. Deputy Prime Minister Manaj presented an overview of the current situation and the priorities of the Government of Kosovo, pointing out that one of the priorities is exactly the acceleration of the Kosovo’s integration process towards the European Union. The Euro-parliamentarians expressed their interest in hearing about the position and the constitutional guarantees for the minorities in Kosovo, about the strategy of the Kosovo Government, about certain economic aspects, including the energy situation, then donors’ conference, legal security for foreign investments, etc.

The visit of the European Parliament delegation in Kosovo and this meeting at the Government of Kosovo was assessed by both parties as a contribution and a proof of the strengthening of the cooperation between the institutions of Kosovo and the institutions of the EU.

(Prishtina June 23rd, 2008)
REGIONAL COOPERATION
The first official visit of Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi to Albania after the declaration of Kosovo’s independence

ALBANIA AND KOSOVO, in the big European family

Invited by the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Sali Berisha, the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Hashim Thaçi, paid an official visit to Albania on June 19th and 20th, 2008. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, was received with high state honors in his first official visit to Albania following the declaration of the independence of Kosovo. Initially he had a special meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, Sali Berisha. In this meeting, both Prime Ministers expressed in favor of a joint, close and comprehensive cooperation between Kosovo and Albania in all the fields of common interest. Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi
and Prime Minister Sali Berisha signed a Memorandum of Cooperation between Kosovo and Albania. On behalf of the Government of Kosovo, Prime Minister Thaçi thanked Prime Minister Sali Berisha for the continuous support and cooperation of the Albanian Government and all the political forces in the long and historical process of the declaration of the independence of Kosovo. Prime Minister Thaçi expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the people of Kosovo for the overall support Kosovo received from the Albanian state and Albanian politics, at different and most difficult times.

“The independence of Kosovo is directly linked with the contribution of Albania, therefore I thank you on behalf of the people and the Government of Kosovo,” said Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi.

Wishing a warm welcome to Prime Minister Thaçi, Prime Minister Sali Berisha said: “I want to use this opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister and the Government of Kosovo for the outstanding successes they have made in the first months after the independence of their country, in consolidating their independence. Hashim Thaçi has been here before as a commander of the Albanian resistance, as a chairman of the Kosovo delegation in Rambouillet and as a representative of the opposition in pluralist Kosovo. Today, he comes as Prime Minister of the independent Kosovo. I express my deep appreciation for his contribution given to the process of Kosovo’s independence.”
Prime Minister Thaçi and Prime Minister Berisha also pledged that both countries will cooperate in the fight against organized crime. Fight against organized crime and corruption was assessed as a major imperative for the people of both countries and as an issue of utmost importance for the international image of Kosovo and Albania. Kosovo and Albania should work on meeting the necessary requirements for integration in NATO and the EU, both Prime Ministers assessed and went on to discuss in detail about joint projects of cooperation, with an aim to have our countries as factors of stability, development and contributing to the regional and European integration. Prime Minister Thaçi then had a meeting with the President of the Assembly of Albania, Mrs. Jozefina Topalli, and addressed the members of the Albanian parliament. Kosovo and Albania have a joint goal, and that is integration in EU and NATO, said Prime Minister Thaçi, adding that the painful history of the Kosovar Albanians has been crowned with the independence of the country and that a huge support in this respect has been given by the Albanian people and state.

“I was born and raised with the love for Albania, just like my son who comes to Albania every year. In 1997, we were at war and you opened your homes for us, and we will never forget that,” said Mr. Thaçi, expressing gratitude on behalf of the people of Kosovo.
Albanian President Topi awarded Kosovo’s Prime Minister Thaçi with the “Gjergj Kastrioti – Skënderbeu” decree

After the Assembly, the Prime Minister headed for the Presidency where he met with the Albanian President, Mr. Bamir Topi. In a solemn ceremony, the President of Albania awarded the Prime Minister of Kosovo Mr. Hashim Thaçi with the “Gjergj Kastrioti-Skënderbeu” decree. This decoration was awarded to Mr. Thaçi in recognition of his important role in the fight for gaining independence and for building the new state of Kosovo serving as a factor of peace and stability in the Balkan and beyond. Expressing gratitude for this precious prize to President Topi, Prime Minister Thaçi said that this is an honor for him as a Prime Minister of Kosovo, an honor for Kosovo and the people of Kosovo. Prime Minister Thaçi also met with the leader of the Socialist Movement for Integration, Mr. Ilir
Meta, and with the mayor of Tirana, the socialist leader, Edi Rama. In a special meeting, Prime Minister Thaçi was awarded by the Mayor of Tirana the symbol of hospitality of Tirana city, “Keys to Tirana.”

Whereas, at the Durres beach, together with the mayor of Durres, Vangjush Dako, they inaugurated the “Independence” plaque. During his stay in Kavaja, Thaçi paid a visit to the family of martyr Endrit Cara, paid homage at the memorial raised at the center of town to remember and honor the deeds of Endrit Cara. About the end of his visit to Albania, the Prime Minister of the Government of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, visited Vlora. Mr. Thaçi met with the mayor of town, Shpetim Gjika. In a ceremony organized for the occasion, the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi was declared Citizen of Honor of Vlora. Prime Minister Thaçi also laid flowers at the Independence Monument.
Our future certain under a common roof: EU and NATO

Kosovo passed through a century of dark history, with lots of pain and sacrifice. The entire history of Kosovo is linked to the efforts for freedom and western civilization. And our politics are shaped by this civilization, and in the end it yielded the most sublime value: Freedom.

The efforts of many generations of the people of Kosovo meet at one point: restoring of the source of political authority back to the will of the people of Kosovo. And this will was trodden upon, despised and oppressed throughout the last century. All the three consecutive Yugoslavia’s, that came violently one after the other in Kosovo, had one fact in common: they wanted Kosovo under
their control and they hated and fought against its indigenous people. Kosovo never gave up, on the contrary, all of its people stood up to stop the evil. Our persistence was fostered by the belief that the democratic world would rightly understand our just efforts. The civilized world, led by the United States of America and the European Union came to our support. The liberation and freedom efforts in Kosovo were in full harmony with the historical trends of democratization in the world. For a century, the efforts of Kosovo enjoyed the support of the institutions and the people of Albania. Thousands and thousands of citizens of Kosovo when forced out of their homes found shelter and brotherly warmth all around the Albanian towns and villages. And there is nothing of more importance at the survival of a people than the hand and spirit of solidarity.

When Kosovo was at war, Albania too was at a warlike situation, your country gave martyrs for the freedom of Kosovo, but also Kosovo gave heroes for the independence of Albania. The people of Kosovo humbly kneel down with respect for all the martyrs. Every citizen of Albania is part of the contribution given for the freedom of Kosovo.

Some time in the past, when I came to Albania, I spent hours and hours walking through Pashtrik and Luboteni mountains. The way I entered Albania unnoticed, the same way I stayed in Tirana. Whereas today, a lot has changed, and even if I wanted to repeat that past experience, most probably I would not make it. But, something has remained unchanged, identical, on both sides of the border. Kosovo is proud of Albania. Kosovo and Albania are proud of each other.

In June of 1999, the evil was defeated – the good triumphed. And in this way, the new epoch of the final solution to the issue of Kosovo started. We were convinced that there was only one way ahead: turning Kosovo’s freedom into an independent and sovereign state. State-forming is a natural course for a free people.

On February 17th this year, the institutions of Kosovo proved one more time to the people of Kosovo and the world their firm commitment. The
legitimate representatives of the people declared Kosovo an independent, sovereign, democratic, unique and indivisible state. Pristina celebrated, Tirana celebrated, the entire democratic world supported us. The democratic world welcomed and promptly recognized the will of the people of Kosovo. Kosovo will become part and a member of the United Nations Organization. An important and immediate part of this recognition was also the honorable Assembly of the Republic of Albania.

Kosovo and Albania, as two independent countries, have one common goal and vision: integration in NATO and the European Union. I congratulate Albania and the entire Albanian people on the invitation to join NATO. This was the year of the region. Kosovo became independent and Albania got the invitation for NATO membership.

Future values have triumphed in our region. We are building European realities, a region without borders; we are building integration links that bring Pristina and Tirana closer.

A natural epilogue to our long, painful and historical journey is the freedom that we enjoy today and our future is certain under the common roof: European Union and NATO.

(Highlights from the address of Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo Hashim Thaçi to the Assembly of Albania on June 19th, 2008)
STATESMEN SUPPORT PROCESSES IN INDEPENDENT KOSOVO
Albania has played an important role for the recognition of Kosovo’s independence

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, received in a meeting the President of the Republic of Albania during the first visit of a wide delegation from Tirana in an independent and sovereign Kosovo. Initially, Thaçi expressed gratitude and appreciation to President Topi, the Albanian Government and all the political class for fully supporting Kosovo at this important process in the period following the declaration of Kosovo’s independence and of the significant recognitions of Kosovo. Mr. Thaçi highly assessed the role of President Topi in all his meetings with the international officials in Tirana and in the world capitals.

“The role of the institutions of Albania has supported the advancing of the state of Kosovo,” said Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi adding that he briefed President Topi on the achievements and the progress made so far, on the recognitions that have happened and the ones to come and the steps being taken so that Kosovo becomes soon a member of the international mechanisms, World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Prime Minister Thaçi and President Topi agreed on the need to ensure full coordination and cooperation between the state institutions of both countries and an immediate implementation of the democratic criteria in the field of economic development and legislation and to exchange good experiences and avoid shortcomings.

President Topi thanked Prime Minister Thaçi for the brotherly welcome and highly assessed his role as Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo. President Topi also acknowledged the work of the coalition which is administering the governance
of the country at a very important and historical moment following the declaration of independence. “Both governments, the Albanian and Kosovo ones have an obligation to enhance cooperation in all the fields,” said the Albanian President, Bamir Topi, pointing out in this respect the capital investment in the history of Albania, investing in the Durres-Kukes-Prishtina-Merdar highway. “There is political will and desire to implement this investment as soon as possible,” said Mr. Topi.  

(Prishtina, January 8th, 2009)
The Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, met with the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Gruevski, in Skopje. Cooperation between our countries was the main topic of discussion as Macedonia has already recognized Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state. Prime Minister Thaçi thanked the Government of Macedonia and Prime Minister Gruevski for the decision taken, a few weeks before, to recognize the reality created in Kosovo after the February 17th, this year. “The independence of Kosovo,” said Mr. Thaçi “has brought peace and stability to the region and a perspective for Euro-Atlantic integration of all the Southeastern Europe.”

In a press statement following the meeting, the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, said that Kosovo will establish diplomatic relations with Macedonia very soon. “Our relations have always been good, but now we will establish relations at diplomatic level. Kosovo will soon have its embassy in Skopje, so that this cooperation between our Governments and our state institutions will advance and strengthen,” said the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi.

(Skopje, November 22nd, 2008)
Allow me to reaffirm the position of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo by saying that we are fully committed to the process of Kosovo’s integration into Euro-Atlantic structures as our main strategic goal. We are aware that for us the process itself is more important than the act of membership, because during this process we are embracing democratic values and at the same time we are improving the quality of the lives of the people of Kosovo. We are determined to embrace the European values and to guarantee peace and stability in the region and to strengthen the cooperation with our regional neighbors, said the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, in the 15th meeting of the Stabilization and Association Tracking Mechanism.

(Excerpts from the speech of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, on the 15th meeting of the STM in Prishtina, December 2nd, 2008).
The Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Hashim Thaçi, hosted a lunch at his home in Bu- roja for a delegation of American congressmen led by Mr. Eliot Engel.

“You have made a lot of sacrifices and you are a big patriot of this country,” Mr. Eliot told Prime Minister Thaçi. Deputy Prime Ministers, Mr. Hajredin Kuçi, and Mr. Ramë Manaj were present along with Ministers, Mr. Fatmir Limaj, Mr. Enver Hoxhaj, Mr. Ah- met Shala and many other guests.

On behalf of the institutions and the people of Kosovo, Prime Minister Thaçi thanked Congressman Eliot Engel for his work and his contribution over the last 20 years and expressed his admiration for the American delegation which is staying in Kosovo on the day the Constitution of Kosovo enters into force.

“This reality that we have in Kosovo is an outcome of our efforts and sacrifice, a result of close cooperation between Washington and Prishtina,” said Prime Minister Thaçi. Meanwhile, Mr. Eliot Engel said that in Kosovo he can feel the great love that Kosovars have for the Americans. Addressing Prime Minister Thaçi, Mr. Engel expressed his highest consideration: “You have made a lot of sacrifices and you are a great patriot of this country, you have fought for the dream of Kosovo’s independence that has now come true. Dreams do not come true by themselves, a lot of blood, sweat and tears must be shed to make them real and a lot of this has happened in Kosovo to ensure the arrival of this day,” said Mr. Engel. The noted US congressman assured the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi that he will have the US support for every step of his in building the state of Kosovo.

(Prishtina, June 15th 2008)
It is the goal of Kosovo to be a functioning and democratic state, built on EU membership criteria

The progress report allows us to assess the Kosovo’s path towards the European Union and it is an opportunity for the institutions of Kosovo to take measures in accordance with the membership requirements.

It is the goal of Kosovo to be a functioning and democratic state built on EU membership criteria and to be a competitive state worthy of membership.

The Progress Report has been reviewed carefully and has been assessed by the Government as realistic in depicting the situation in Kosovo in the period from October 2007 until October 2008 and its recommendations will serve as guidelines and will be implemented by the Institutions of Kosovo.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo and each and every department of it will review the report in another special meeting and in the next meeting of the Stabilization and Association Tracking Mechanism that will be held on December 2nd and where the high ranking representatives of the European Commission will also participate.

I express my consideration for the drafters of this report and for the contribution of the Kosovo institutions, civil society and the international mechanisms to this report and we will continue to be partners in the future endeavors.

(Highlights from the speech of Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi in a press conference in Prishtina on November 6th, 2008 where he presented the stance of the Government on the European Commission’s Progress Report)
Prime Minister Thaçi congratulates President Barack Obama on his inauguration as 44th President of the United States

Your Excellency, President Obama,

Your inauguration as President of the United States of America is a great and historic event for your country, for American democracy and for the entire free and democratic world.

Your election as President of the United States of America, displayed before the world, the sustainable quality of American society, the foundation of which are paramount values of the American soul: the values of freedom, patriotism, justice, responsibility, trust and hope.

Your inauguration ceremony as 44th President of the United States of America is a global event which is an inspiration for all nations, peoples and societies who aspire to build free, democratic and developed societies.

The United States of America has always been a flagship for the dissemination and protection of the ideals of freedom across the world. These values continue to be embodied in the name of the United States of America.

Kosovo and all of its citizens are proud of the United States of America. Kosovo will never forget the great contribution and support given by the United States of America.

Personally and on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, I offer my most sincere congratulations and the hope that under your leadership, the United States of America will flourish further, make leaps in development and achieve success in building peace around the world.

Hashim Thaçi, Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo (Prishtina, January 21st, 2009)
YEAR 2009 THE YEAR OF STRENGTHENING OF POLITICAL AND CIVIL UNITY
Dear citizens,
At the end of the 2008 and the beginning of the new year 2009, in the proud, independent, democratic and sovereign Kosovo, as your Prime Minister, I want to thank you all for your hard work and determination you have shown this year. It was a year that sealed the history of our country.
It was the year of Kosovo becoming an independent, sovereign and democratic state.
The year of international recognitions of the state of Kosovo.
The year of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo.

Today’s generations and the ones to come will remember 2008 as a historical moment when the people of Kosovo stood up to take its place amongst the family of the European states.
We got together to make Kosovo an independent and sovereign state.
Today, we take pride in our achievements.
Today, we have state institutions deriving from free and democratic elections.
We have established good and effective governance.
We have a system of social welfare in place, which
aspires to accomplish Western standards. Education is improving in an effort to make Kosovo a knowledge-based society. We are working on improving healthcare, too. Our roads, bridges and highways are being built in accordance with Western standards. We have approved for 2009 a budget which is 15% higher than the budget of the last year. This budget will encourage economic development and will strengthen your social welfare. All that we have done, we have done together, as citizens of independent and democratic Kosovo.

The year 2008 will be remembered as a year of political and civic unity. I am proud of what we have achieved together and I am honored with the trust you have in me as your Prime Minister. Let us commit ourselves to maintain, in 2009, the same spirit of unity that brought us this far. Only with unity and determination can we overcome challenges and make even more progress for us and our children.

Hashim Thaçi
Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo
GOVERNMENT DECISIONS

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo, led by Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, convened in the first year of its work; 48 Government meetings and approved 416 various decisions within its scope of activities.
Në In one of its first meetings, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo decided to review the decisions of the previous government, adopted after November 17th, with an aim to bring order in the expenditures of the government officials.

(January 22nd, 2008)

In an effort to cut unnecessary expenditures, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo decided that all the institutions of Kosovo must be located in public premises.

(January 30th, 2008)

The Government also decided to build new schools in all the areas in Kosovo where the education process was organized in improvised premises. Also, the Government of Kosovo decided that the Office of the Auditor General was to start auditing of all the institutions of Kosovo and the Public Enterprises.

(January 30th, 2008)

Through Administrative Instructions, the Government regulated that the political nominees in the Government of Kosovo were to receive only one salary, regulated the use of the official vehicles of the Government of Kosovo and the use of telephones at the Government of Kosovo.

(February 7th, 2008)

The Government approved the 2008-2010 European Integration Plan, prepared by the Agency for European Integration (AEI). The adoption of this plan represents an important step in the path towards European integration and leads to signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement. The 2008-2010 European Integration Plan consists of 6 documents: Kosovo’s European Partnership Action Plan, strengthening of mechanisms for managing of integration processes, concept papers for approximation of legislation with the EU one, concept paper on preparation of the national plan, information and communication strategy, and the training strategy.

(April 3rd, 2008)
The Government approved Kosovo Gender Equality Program, a strategic paper for incorporation of gender equality in the public policies and programs of the Government. The program aims to promote dialogue on integration of gender equality, equal participation of men and women in the social, economic and political life of the country.

(April 24th, 2008)

With a special decision, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo decided to allocate a monthly salary of 1,000 Euros to the symbol of Kosovar resistance, Adem Demaçi, along with a car and a driver. The Government also decided to start the procedure to declare as a museum the house where Adem Demaçi carried out his activities as a KLA political representative in Prishtina.

(April 29th, 2008)

The Government nominated Skender Hyseni as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Until the end of the transitory stage, the nominee for the Minister of Foreign Affairs will be responsible to establish the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and carrying out of other relevant tasks. Upon the completion of the transitory stage, the nominee for the minister becomes official Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This implies the formal opening of embassies and the appointment of Ambassadors for the foreseen states.

(April 3rd, 2008)

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo adopted the second part of ten draft laws deriving from the Ahtisaari plan, out of 34 laws in total. Draft Law on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diplomatic Service of the Republic of Kosovo was adopted in a form of legal package.

(March 7th, 2008)

With the approval of the Law on Establishing the Ministry of Security Force of Kosovo (MKSF) and the Law on the Kosovo Security Force (FSK)
on June 15th, 2008, the constitutional and legal basis was created for the establishment of the MKSF and KSF.

The process has constantly been supported by a Ministerial Advisory Team, led by NATO. This cooperation reflects the genuine relations that this ministry has with the international counterpart institutions.

Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi appointed Fehmi Mujota as the Minister of the Kosovo Security Force and handed over to him the decision on his appointment at the helm of the Ministry of the Security Force.

(August 5th, 2008)


The prevention of the informal economy and corruption and other forms of gray economy are amongst the priorities in the policies of the Government of Kosovo.

This program contains in itself an assessment on the scope and impact of the informal economy in Kosovo and the short-term, mid-term and long-term objectives.

The program outlines the role of the ministries and other relevant authorities in applying various activities and a timetable for the carrying out of activities and a method to measure concrete program results.

(August 19th, 2008)

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo has decided to establish a working group on drafting a “white paper” that will address and harmonize the social policies in the Republic of Kosovo.

The need to approve this document was pointed out in the Donors’ Conference on Kosovo.

(August 19th, 2008).

(August 28th, 2008)

The Government has decided to increase teacher salaries. According to this decision, teachers, directors, deputy directors and professional associates in the schools will benefit a pay rise in accordance with the criteria of teacher licensing. This decision will replace the old linear system of payments in the education and will favor the professional upgrading of teachers and the work experience.

(August 29th, 2008)

The Government has cancelled all the punishing measures for the businesses that reach agreements with the Tax Administration of Kosovo by the end of 2008 to pay debts.

(September 10th, 2008)

The Government has decided to initiate the drafting of procedures for the privatization of KEK’s distribution network. It was decided, in the meeting, to establish a Company out of the current assets of the KEK energy distribution and start the procedures for its privatization.

(October 2nd, 2008)

The Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Energy and Mining have analyzed and concluded that this will have a positive impact on increasing of investments and improving of the energy distribution network and will be a guarantee for a regular electricity supply.

(October 16th, 2008)

Following consultations between Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, President Fatmir Sejdiu and Assembly President Jakup Krasniqi the Government of Kosovo decided to appoint legal expert Michael Wood to represent Kosovo at the International Court of Justice.

(October 16th, 2008)
The Government has decided to develop the “Zhur Hydro Power Plant” project based on the public-private partnership model. The Government took this decision in accordance with the 2005-2015 Kosovo Energy Strategy and the requirements of the Treaty on Establishing of Energy Community in the South Eastern Europe, according to which EU policies in the energy sector are to be implemented and which require that by 2020 at least 20% of the produced energy should come from regenerative energy sources (water, wind, biomass, etc).

Kosovo is currently producing only 3% of energy from regenerative sources. According to preliminary assessments, about 300 million euros are expected to be invested in this project which will produce about 300 MVh of electricity.

(October 31st, 2008)

The budget responds to the program policies and our priorities within our existing resources.

This budget is inclusive and foresees increasing of salaries, reduction of tax rates and improving of the position of the civil servants.

The budget has been discussed and harmonized with the recommendations from international relevant factors in Kosovo and affirms the aspiration of Kosovo to be part of the relevant international financial structures like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

(November 3rd, 2008)

The Government of Kosovo has approved the Draft Law on the Constitutional Court which regulates the organization and the functioning of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo, the procedures as to how to present and discuss claims at the Constitutional Court.
Court, terms and procedures on appointment and dismissal of judges at the Constitutional Court.

(December 12th, 2008)

The Government has approved the 2009-2015 Strategy on Electronic Governance through which Kosovo aspires to be the first country in the region and amongst the ten in Europe to functionalize the electronic governance.

Electronic governance implies offering of services from the government institutions through information technology and communication with the citizens, businesses and other categories. Electronic governance is good governance.

(December 12th, 2008)
THE RESULTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES
The total budget of the Republic of Kosovo for 2009 is 1 billion and 430 million euros and is for 15% higher than the previous year.

It is the first budget of the state of Kosovo and the highest in the history of Kosovo.

The Government has decided to increase the salaries of the civil servants for 10% and pensions and social assistance up to 12.5%.

The 2009-2011 Mid-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) has been prepared. Drafting of the MTEF has been amongst the main activities of the government. This document addresses the priorities of the Government during the mid-term period. The MTEF document was approved by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo on June 12th, 2008 and represents the key basic document based on which the Donors’ Conference on Kosovo was organized, which took place on July 11th, 2008 in Brussels.

From the Donors’ Conference Kosovo received a huge financial support in the amount of 1.2 billion euros for the 2008-2011 mid-term period.

The Law 02/L-2 covering pensions for the families of martyrs, war invalids, war veterans and civilian victims of the war started to be fully implemented as of January this year.

The right to pension so far has been granted to 11,425 citizens, and the amount used to pay the pensions for this category is 16 340 276.77 euros.

The Government decision No; 10/22, date May 30th
2008, on the recuperation of the health of 800 KLA invalids and 200 members of the families of martyrs in an amount of 153,000.00 euros, was executed, along the Government decision No. 03/45, date November 14th 2008, providing for heating and food for the KLA Invalids Association in an amount of 125,000.00 €.

8,000 euros a month have been allocated for the Kosovo Liberation Army war associations – a total of 96,000 euros.

A summer holiday’s project was implemented in cooperation with the MLSW in an amount of 150,000 €. 150,000 euros have been allocated for the expenditures covering the prosthesis of the war invalids.

Following a request by the KLA War Veterans Association, the Office of the Prime Minister allocated 6,500 euros for the families of the veterans that passed away.

The good cooperation between the Tax Administration of Kosovo and the taxpayers has led to an increase in 2008 of the reimbursement claims, and by the end of November about 17.5 million euros got reimbursed. At the same time, income generation for the period January-November reached 194.5 million euros, which represents about 95% of the annual plan for 2008.

Compared with the same period of the last year, following the entry into force of the Administrative Instruction No. 03/2008 on the use of the cars of the Government of Kosovo, fuel expenditures were reduced by 93.7 %
Following the entry into force of the Administrative Instruction No. 4/2008 on the use of telephones (landline and mobile) at the Government of Kosovo, the monthly expenditures of pre-paid mobile phones were reduced by 44.65%, while the expenditures of roaming by 151.62% and landline telephone expenditures were reduced by 3.7%.

During 2008, 161 projects covering about 600 km of road infrastructure were implemented. The total budget of the Ministry of Transport and Post-Telecommunications for 2008 was 139,394,085 euros, of which 126,267,552 euros were destined for capital investments.

Out of the total amount, in the first eight months of work, 126,849,978 euros was spent and 91% of it or 114,283,807 euros went to capital investments. Taking into account 9,856,421 euros for capital investments were transferred from the budget of 2007, then it turns out that the percentage of the financial realization of capital expenditures for 2008 is 98.2%.

At the same reporting period for 2007, only 11,933,925 euros were spent for capital investments which is for 900% less than the amount spent over these eight months. Moreover, in the last three years, 36 months of work, 47,243,652 euros were spent in capital investments, and that would make only 40% of the money used during these eight months.

A project for building a roundabout at the Bus Station in Prishtina costing 11,750,446 euros has already been contracted. Six projects have been completed and another 13 ones have been drafted with regards to the building of pedestrian subways and pavements.

The Law on Road Traffic Safety is being applied and it has resulted in a decrease of total number of accidents by 7.8%, and fatal accidents by 12.7%.
Basic textbooks free of charge have been distributed to lower elementary schools. The Government has provided for free basic text books for classes from 1 to 5 in all the schools of the Republic of Kosovo.

Whereas books for classes 6 to 9 were given free of charge to students living in families with difficult social conditions.

The publication of a new ABC Book (new content and design) for the first-year pupils has been initiated. Having in mind the interactive, comprehensive and graphic character the new version of the ABC Book is more effective and more efficient in ensuring first results amongst the schoolchildren.

In order to increase space and inventory conditions for developing classes, in 2008 the Government concluded investments in 20 new school premises and three renovations, and works are ongoing in 53 school premises, renovation in 5 schools and building of a new gym.

Money has also been allocated for the building of new premises for the Faculty of Education.

Money has been allocated and works have started on the new premises of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

A GIS (Geographical Information System) has started to be implemented and it will enable
the unification of all the national data in Kosovo.

5,000 ha of arable land have been included in the irrigation system this year.

The year 2008 is an indicator of success when it comes to revenue collection, which marked an increase by 16% compared to the same period last year.

A better communication with the taxpayers through advice and suggestions has encouraged them to come forward and declare taxes thus marking an increase in declaration of taxes up to 87.59% in the period from January to October 2008.

The income collected until December 24th 2008 amounts to 903.09 million euros or 101% of the annual plan, and compared to the same period of the last year this is an increase by 10.1%.

Custom duties collected by the Customs Service during the period from January to November 2008 amount to 576.48 million euros. The annual planning for this category has been realized about 98.9%, while compared to the same period last year this is an increase by 19.9%.

Annual taxes collected by the Tax Administration of Kosovo amount to 206.86 million euros or 101% of the annual plan for this category. Com-
pared to the same period last year this is an increase by 19.7%

The Government incomes collected amount to 90.36 million euros and represent 118.3% of the budget planning for this category. Compared to the same period last year this is an increase by 42.9%

Municipal incomes collected during the period from January to November 2008 amount to 40.50 million euros and represent 105.8% of the annual planning for this income category. Compared to the same period last year this is an increase by 46.3%

517.11 million euros have been allocated for capital investments this year, whereas by December 24th 2008, 334.83 million euros were spent or 64.6% of the annual planning for this economic category. Compared to the same period of the year 2007, capital investments are for 112.33% higher in 2008.

THE RESULTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

1. The Prime Minister's Public Communications Office
