



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria-Vlada-Government

MINISTRY FOR DIALOGUE

Prishtina, 07 December 2016
Ref. No. 144/2016

Briefing note

The recently built wall in the north of Mitrovica violates the Kosovo Law and the Brussels Agreement

We would like to inform about the recent negative developments in the northern part of Mitrovica related to construction of “wall” in an illegal manner and in violation of Brussels Agreement and the Kosovo Law.

We note with concern that these developments will have destabilizing effects, because frustration and tensions are rising among population there and general public. These provocative developments can seriously undermine the important achievements of the Brussels of dialogue and efforts to normalize the situation northern part of Kosovo.

As known, the Brussels Agreement on the barricade removal and revitalization of the Mitrovica Bridge of 25 August 2015 provides for revitalization of the Mitrovica Bridge by EU and for pedestrianization of the main street in Mitrovica north by the municipality authorities. On the latter, the agreement says:

“In line with the same timetable, the municipality will revitalize its main street (King Peter Street) into a pedestrian zone. The street will open for pedestrians by summer/ not later than end of June 2016.”

After getting official reports from relevant institutions of Kosovo, we learned that the work on revitalization / pedestrianization of the King Peter Street is not being carried

out by the competent authorities, namely the Mitrovica North municipal authorities, as provided by agreement.

Mayor Rakic in his official answer to the MLGA has denied that they are carrying out this work.

Having in mind this fact, it appears that this work is done illegally, most likely by the municipal parallel structures and/or Serbia itself, which is in violation with the Brussels Agreement.

The Government of Kosovo is addressing this problem with urgency and in accordance with the Kosovo Law, in coordination with you/EU, in line with the Brussels agreement on this matter. Our position is that times for walls and barricades are over. We worked hard within the Brussels dialogue to bring an end to barricades in northern part of Kosovo and we made it. That's why the urgent measures are required to stop the illegal activities in northern part of our country and stop any construction that reminds walls or barricades.

Therefore, we call on EU to undertake effective measures to stop this illegal construction, and remove the wall in order to avoid any destabilization. We will cooperate in this process though in case of delays we will be compelled to act by the power law.

After this inconvenient experience, it is necessary that the plan for revitalization of King Peter Street be agreed in the Brussels dialogue, in same way as we agreed the plan for revitalization of Mitrovica Bridge.

We cannot let revisit of similar scenarios!

The Ministry of Dialogue remains available for any additional inquires.