INFORMATION FOR JOURNALISTS

Summary note on the joint report by
Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the CFSP,
and Olli Rehn, EU Commissioner for Enlargement,
on the future EU Role and Contribution in Kosovo

Background note on the second joint report by Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the CFSP, and Olli Rehn, EU Commissioner for Enlargement, on the future EU role and contribution in Kosovo.

This report builds on the previous joint paper on the future EU role and contribution in Kosovo, submitted to the Council by Mr Solana and Mr Rehn in June 2005.

Extracts from the report:

The EU role in the Status Process

- Kosovo has entered a new phase. The process to determine the future status of Kosovo was launched at the beginning of November 2005 with the appointment of the UN Status Envoy, Mr Martti Ahtisaari. The EU has a vital interest in a positive result of this process and the responsibility and means to contribute to such an outcome.

- The UN Status Envoy enjoys the full confidence of the EU.

- The EU Representative, Mr Stefan Lehne, will support the UN Status Envoy’s efforts.

Continued Standards Implementation and Streamlining with EU standards

- This new phase also needs to keep the focus on the continued implementation of the Kosovo standards. It is only through Status with Standards that the paramount objective of building a functioning and viable Kosovo fully integrated in the region can be achieved.

- UN-led standards should be framed in the context of the European perspective that Kosovo shares with the rest of the Western Balkans. By having one key document – the European Partnership – incorporating the essence of the UN standards, the Kosovo Provisional Institutions (PISG) and UNMIK will be able more effectively to implement their work in a co-ordinated manner.

- The Kosovo authorities must take the lead in the development of an Action Plan in response to the Partnership. This Action Plan should be ready in early 2006.
Preparations for EU Post Status Role

- The EU’s responsibilities after Status is settled will depend largely on the outcome of the status process. However, preparations have to proceed in parallel with the Status Process.

- Whatever the outcome of the status, Kosovo will require for some time a continued international presence. The EU is likely to play a leading role together with international partners. The future international civilian presence after UNMIK shall, however, not be EUMIK.

- The EU could take on responsibilities in the police and rule of law and certain residual economic areas. On the EU side, both Community instruments and ESDP measures would be required to deal with this challenge. Contingency planning for a possible ESDP mission on police and rule of law should start.

Strengthening the European Perspective of Kosovo and its integration with the Region

- The European agenda will gain in importance as Kosovo’s European perspective becomes more tangible. The new European Partnership is the benchmark document, as it reflects Kosovo’s European vocation and incorporates UN standards.

- Following a settlement of the status, Kosovo should be able to assume its responsibilities within regional initiatives. Kosovo’s access to the international financial institutions and to other international fora will be equally important.

- The Union should use all the instruments available under the Stabilisation and Association Process as reinforced by the Thessaloniki Agenda.

Financial Implications

- It is to be expected that substantive financing will be required to ensure the viability and sustainability of the status settlement.

Background

Already in February 2005, the Council mandated Mr Solana and Mr Rehn to begin exploring the EU’s possible contribution to the international community’s efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1244, including the process towards a settlement of the future status of Kosovo, as well as the EU’s role in Kosovo beyond a status settlement. A first joint report was submitted to the Council by Javier Solana and Olli Rehn in June 2005.

Following the report in June, and discussions in the Council, Mr Solana and Mr Rehn were asked to continue their work in identifying the possible future EU role and contribution, including in the areas of police, rule of law and the economy, and to submit joint proposals to the Council.