



Donors Conference is sign of EU commitment to Kosovo - Feith

Pieter Feith, EU Special Representative in Kosovo, today delivered a keynote speech at the opening of the Donors Conference for Kosovo, hosted by the European Commission in Brussels. The Conference aims to collect pledges from international donors for Kosovo's socio-economic development, and to create the conditions for growth, investment and jobs for all communities in Kosovo.

"I am happy to take part in this much needed donors conference for Kosovo in my capacity as EU Special Representative in Kosovo. It takes place, importantly, in the context of an overall increased EU commitment to support progress in Kosovo," said Feith.

Mr Feith congratulated the Kosovo government on its Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and stressed that focus should be on creating sustainable structures. He said:

"In Kosovo, the potential impact of success or failure goes much beyond the ordinary measure. Economic development will not only raise prosperity but also improve social cohesion."

Mr. Feith stressed he had full confidence that Kosovo would make good use of what is pledged today and that the international community would work with the Kosovo authorities to ensure proper implementation of the new funds to the benefit of all in Kosovo.

He also underlined that special joint efforts between the international community and the Kosovar authorities are needed to reassure the Serb community in Kosovo. Many of their every-day concerns will be addressed through the Kosovo-wide decentralization that will bring the decision-making closer to the citizens. Mr Feith said:

"This is however a lengthy process. I would therefore like to underline the need for immediate targeted projects to improve the living standard in the non-majority areas."

(ends)



European Union Special Representative in Kosovo

Note to Editors:

For further information on the Donors Conference for Kosovo, please see also the press release by the European Commission at <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/>

Background on the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) in Kosovo:

The objective of the European Union in Kosovo is to support and assist the Kosovo authorities in developing a stable, viable, peaceful and multi-ethnic Kosovo, cooperating peacefully with its neighbours in the region. To promote these objectives, the Council of the European Union appointed Pieter Feith as EU Special Representative (EUSR) in Kosovo on 4 February 2008.

His mandate is to:

- Offer the European Union's advice and support to the Kosovo government in the political process of European integration
- Promote overall coordination of EU presences in Kosovo, e.g. the European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo and the EULEX rule of law mission (see www.euinkosovo.eu)
- Ensure consistency and coherence of EU action towards the public
- Provide local political guidance to the Head of the European Union Rule of Law Mission EULEX in Kosovo.
- Contribute to the development and consolidation of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Kosovo

Mr Feith holds a simultaneous, separate mandate as International Civilian Representative (ICR) in Kosovo.

For further information on the EUSR in the Donors Conference for Kosovo, please call EUSR spokesperson Julia Rueter + 377 509 760 or see www.eusrinkosovo.eu.