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Interview with Pieter Feith, EU Special Representative

1. What are you going to do (EU Special Representative in Kosovo) to help Kosovo EU integration and when do you expect Kosovo to join EU ?

Pieter Feith, EU Special Representative said:

“It is my task as European Union Special Representative to advise the Kosovo Government on its European integration process. Kosovo has a clear perspective to join the European project as part of the Western Balkan region. The accession of 12 countries to the EU in the past four years has shown us again that not the day of accession makes countries more modern, economically prosperous or democratic; rather, the long path of firm and lasting reforms to the EU does.

The new Kosovo can build on strong support from the European Union to progress on this path. The EU presences have provided schools for over 3,500 pupils in Kosovo in the past years. They have helped construct 450 kilometers of roads and rebuilt 17 bridges. Thousands of families, hospitals and schools received a modern heating system. And now, the EU is here to advise on further political progress towards the EU in many areas and to strengthen the rule of law. Kosovo’s progress depends on its political and economic reform achievements, for instance in the rule of law, regional integration, and economics.”

2. According to your point of views, in which stadium (phase) of EU integration is Kosovo actually, How are going the "Copenhagen Criteria" , When do you think that Kosovo will sign the Stabilization and Association Agreement ?

Pieter Feith, EU Special Representative said:

“Kosovo has already been firmly anchored in the Stabilization and Association Process, which is the umbrella process guiding the Western Balkans towards the EU. Our three EU presences – the EU Special Representative, EULEX, and the European Commission – will work together with the Kosovo authorities and representatives to help Kosovo to move closer to the EU day by day. This requires strategic unity and consensus on all levels, from the government down to the municipalities and each citizen. Kosovo’s step-by-step progress in the rule of law, democracy, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities will lead first to a Stabilization and Association Agreement and ultimately to the fulfillment of the Copenhagen criteria.”