



Tuesday 13 May 2008

THE NEW EUROPEAN UNION PRESENCES IN KOSOVO SAY:

“COME TO EUROPE!”

Come to Europe! is a major public information roadshow for Kosovo. It was launched in Pristina today and will answer two key questions being asked by Kosovo's citizens:

- What does the path to European Union membership mean for Kosovo?
- What are the responsibilities of the new EU presences in Kosovo?

The roadshow truck was unveiled and its destinations were revealed by the roadshow moderator Benet Kaci. The roadshow will visit make nearly 20 stops, with something for all the family. At the heart of each stop is a theatre play and a European quiz. Local talent shows will also be on stage.

The heads of each mission are supporting the roadshow and will be attending selected stops. Commenting on the roadshow, **EU Special Representative/International Civilian Representative Pieter Feith said:**

“The Kosovo Government has invited the new EU presences to come to help Kosovo on its way to a democratic, multi-ethnic and prosperous future. So now we are looking forward to explaining to Kosovo's citizens how the EU is a family of nations who decided to reject conflict and seek consensus.

“We will explain that the EU Special Representative is here to advise the Kosovo Government as Kosovo moves, together with the region and step by step, closer to the EU. We will also explain that the International Civilian Office is here to ensure the Government implements the Comprehensive Status Settlement. We are coming to your town to introduce ourselves!

“In the coming weeks, our truck will travel to nearly 20 locations throughout Kosovo. Everyone is invited to come and see us.

“This roadshow is about Kosovo's future and it is right that we explain our work to citizens. But most importantly it will be an event for everyone to enjoy!”





Roy Reeve, the Head of EUPT, said:

“Since the rule of law is the key engine for Kosovo’s society, the EU, by an invitation from the Kosovo authorities, has decided to send its largest civilian mission ever, EULEX Kosovo, to support Kosovo in the Rule of Law area.

“Rule of Law is the foundation of every stable, prosperous and democratic society. Every member of society should have free, fair and equal access to the law. The law applies equally to all people.

“EULEX will help the local government to build a strong Rule of Law situation, free from political interference, operating within a sound legal framework, promoting multi ethnicity, Human Rights and adhering to European recognized standards and best practices in the area of Rule of Law.

“The mission will monitor, mentor and advise the Kosovo authorities in the field of Police, Justice and Customs, while retaining some limited executive powers.

“The key concept is local ownership and accountability: the Kosovo authorities will be in the driver’s seat with co located EULEX specialists providing advice and help.”

Notes to Editors

- The roadshow website is at:

www.cometoeuropeks.eu

www.ejanevropë.eu

www.ajmouevropu.eu

There, people can enter the quiz, sign up for roadshow updates and find out more information on the roadshow and on the new EU presences in Kosovo.

- Come to Europe! is a project of ICO/EUSR and EULEX, supported by the European Commission. The project is implemented by a consortium consisting of Prishtina Film and Karrota Ogilvy.
- Please see the separate sheet for the roadshow's destinations.
- Media queries can be directed to the ICO/EUSR or EULEX press teams. ICO – Verena Ringler + 377 (0)44 507 594/Andy McGuffie + 377 (0)44 509 536/Julia Rueter + 377 (0)44 509 760. EULEX – Karin Limdal + 377 (0)44 799 247/Victor Reuter + 377 (0)44 507 214.

