

Ceremonial Conference: The CCC Working Plan 2009/2010

9 November 2009



On the 9 of November 2009, a Ceremonial Conference to present the 2009/2010 Working Plan of the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC) was held at the Office of the President of Kosovo in the Kosovo Assembly building on Mother Theresa Street, Prishtina.

The Ceremonial Conference aimed at presenting the Working Plan, developed by CCC members, to the wider public and to key stakeholders, such as government representatives, and representatives of the international community and

civil society. It is important to note that the Working Plan was unanimously approved by CCC members during a Plenary Session held on 14 October 2009. The Ceremonial Conference was led by Council members and facilitated by the European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo (ECMI Kosovo).

The opening of the Conference was chaired by the President of Kosovo, Dr Fatmir Sejdiu. The President congratulated members of the Council on their performance and the results achieved since its establishment in April 2009. The President emphasized that one of the key objectives of governance in the Republic of Kosovo, in full accordance with the *Ahtisaari Plan* and the *Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo*, is to ensure representation and participation of communities in public life, the primary task of the CCC. Thus, the CCC Working Plan aims to further support the work of the CCC by ensuring that the needs and interests of each community are addressed by the relevant state bodies, and taken into consideration in the development and implementation of public policies. Finally, the President confirmed his full support for the functioning of the CCC and its membership.

The Conference was attended by the German Ambassador, the British Ambassador, the Turkish Ambassador, the Albanian Ambassador, the Swiss Deputy Ambassador, representatives from the Croatian and Finnish Embassies, and an observer from the USA Embassy. Both the German Ambassador, Hans Dieter Steinbach, and the Turkish Ambassador, Metin Hüsrev Ünler, welcomed the work of the CCC, emphasizing the importance of enhancing dialogue among communities and of cooperation between the CCC and all institutions relevant to communities.

Also in attendance were key stakeholders within the international community, such as the International Civilian Office (ICO), the OSCE, EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) and the European Commission Liaison Office (ECLIO).

In conclusion, all participants gave very positive and constructive feedback on the CCC Working Plan. Key stakeholders called for increased cooperation with the CCC so as to ensure community participation and develop an integrated and harmonized approach towards communities.

The Ceremonial Conference is part of a broader ECMI Kosovo project to support the Consultative Council for Communities, funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the government of the United Kingdom. For more information see www.ecmikosovo.org

