



UNOSEK/PR/6  
Friday, 5 May 2006

## **Pristina, Belgrade delegations present their proposals for the creation of new municipalities in Kosovo**

**Vienna** – Delegations from Pristina and Belgrade held in Vienna a fourth round of direct negotiations on decentralization on May 4 - 5 under the auspices of the Secretary-General Special Envoy for the future status process of Kosovo, Martti Ahtisaari, and chaired by his Deputy, Albert Rohan. The talks were focused on the creation of new municipalities, particularly of municipalities with a Kosovo-Serbs majority, and their boundaries.

The delegations found “some range of agreement” concerning the criteria to be applied for the creation of municipalities, said the Deputy Special Envoy at a press conference, for example, both sides agreed on the necessity of a “fair size”, and the municipalities should also be economically viable, functional and have the necessary infrastructure.

In his summary, Mr. Rohan explained that Pristina proposed the creation of three new municipalities plus an extension of one of the existing municipalities. The Serbian delegation proposed the creation of 14 municipalities and modifications to five already existing municipalities. “We have to continue to work with the two sides on these two proposals”, he said. To that end, he will lead on 16<sup>th</sup> May a delegation to Belgrade, then proceed to Pristina on 18<sup>th</sup> May to review the work on the substantive aspects of decentralization that were dealt with during the talks in Vienna. “There are many open questions and we are going to resume the work directly with each side separately and try to get compromise solutions,” the DSE said.

Another expert mission on economic issues, led by Ambassador Steffen Lehne of the European Union, will visit Pristina and Belgrade between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. They will discuss the issues of the division of assets and liabilities between Serbia and Kosovo.

The next round of direct talks to take place in Vienna will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The discussions will focus on the protection of cultural and religious sites. Pending on the result of the economic mission, a meeting on economic matters may take place “towards the end of the month”, Mr Rohan announced.