



UNOSEK/PR/9
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Pristina, Belgrade delegations discuss protection zones around religious and cultural monuments in Kosovo

Vienna – Delegations from Pristina and Belgrade today held in Vienna a second round of direct negotiations on the protection of religious and culture heritage in Kosovo. The talks were held under the auspices of the Secretary-General Special Envoy for the future status process of Kosovo, Martti Ahtisaari, and chaired by the head of the UNOSEK Political Affairs Division, Mr Petr Ivantsov.

The discussions on Tuesday focused on the protection zones, mainly around the Serbian Orthodox Church monasteries and churches in Kosovo. Mr Ivantsov explained that the discussions were based on proposals made by international experts, following a visit conducted in Kosovo between 12 and 18 June. The delegation, made of experts from UNOSEK, UNESCO, UNMIK and the Council of Europe, visited 13 sites.

“The exercise was technical since we are looking at different parameters of concrete zones”, Mr Ivantsov said, adding that “there is no agreement reached at this stage.”

“We have the proposals of the two sides, we have our recommendations, we will sit down with the international experts and see if we can arrive at a reasonable compromise”, Mr Ivantsov said. He explained that UNOSEK intention is now to continue the discussions in a near future. He also invited the parties to provide their proposals regarding a mechanism to monitor and implement the settlement agreement in the field of cultural and religious heritage.

Another round of direct talks, focusing on Decentralization, will take place in Vienna tomorrow, 19th July, 2006.