

Qeveria e Kosovës | Ministria e Zhvillimit Ekonomik  
Vlada Kosova | Ministarstvo Ekonomskog Razvoja  
Government of Kosovo | Ministry of Economic Development

# ACTIVITIES 2011

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Pristina, 2011





## Mission

The Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Kosovo drafts and implements policies which encourage economic growth and stability, enable local business development, encourage economic cooperation to attract foreign investments, ensure competitiveness and a stable market, ensure sustainable and perspective development of energy and mining resources, ensure a development of the telecommunication and information technology, and ensure efficiency in public enterprise administration.

## Minister's opening speech

Dear citizens,



2011 can be considered as a very important year for Kosovo's economy. Establishment of the Ministry of Economic Development, once again clearly demonstrated the commitment of the Government to provide improved living standards for citizens through concrete steps and policies that ensure a sustainable economic growth. This institution will be the leader of national development policies, and of development strategies in several key sectors, such as the Energy, Mines, and Post-Telecommunications and Information Technology.

Establishment of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Kosovo saw the establishment of new structures within the institution and partial reforms of the structures transferred by existing institutions. In addition, our work towards the strengthening of this institution also focused in strengthening relations with international economic institu-

tions, and similar institutions in neighboring countries and key partners in economy.

We consider that structural reforms in economy and development of Energy, Mining and Post-Telecommunication and IT sectors as a necessary driver to guarantee the forecasted economic growth for the the next years. Consequently, our work focused in the transformation of publicly owned enterprises, carrying out a sensitive progress in finalizing privatization projects of PTK and Electricity Distribution System, which will introduce a notable improvement in the quality of services for citizens and introduce private capital in these sectors.

In addition, progress has been achieved in finalizing the 'Kosova e Re' Power Plant Project, and we have further implemented activities in renewable energy, the major project

of which is HPP 'Zhur'. In terms of mining, I would like to mention the Mining Strategy 2012-2025, which opens way to the development of the sector and attracts foreign investments.

Next year, our work will be focused in finalizing the aforementioned strategic projects, and implement development policies in key sectors. I am fully convinced that steps we undertake towards modernizing our economy, are made in the right direction and will ensure sustainable economic growth in the future, and will be important drivers of our country's integration in the European family.

Sincerely yours,  
Besim Beqaj,  
Minister



### **Minister Besim Beqaj is handed-over his position by Minister Pula**

Pristina, 24 February 2011 – Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, assumed his duties today from now-former Minister of Energy and Mining, Justina Shiroka Pula, which ministry will be incorporated in the former with a reformatting decision of the Government. On this occasion, Minister Pula informed Minister Beqaj with the staff and the work of the ministry in the last three years while she was in charge.

From his part, Minister Beqaj said that he is informed on the great work done in the energy and mining sectors, and said that he will do his best to move forward with pending projects in these areas. Minister Beqaj promised a close cooperation with the ministry's staff, highlighting that the Ministry of Energy and Mining, and certain departments of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, will be merged in the Ministry of Economic Development.



### **Kosovo – Austria, a Diverse Partnership**

Pristina, 18 March 2011 - Minister Beqaj said in the meeting with the Austrian Ambassador in Prishtina, Johann Brieger, that Kosovo's partnership with Austria was a partnership of all forms of cooperation such as economic, scientific and political. "Austria has been, and still is, very active in the economy. I think that with the recent changes and the recently drafted legislation, more opportunities are opening for the Austrian economy's engagement in Kosovo," said Beqaj.



### **Turkey is interested to continue its cooperation with Kosovo**

Pristina, 18 March 2011 – Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, received confirmations from the Turkish Diplomat in Kosovo on the continuation and deepening of the political and economic cooperation between Turkey and Kosovo. Minister Beqaj thanked the Turkish Ambassador Songul Ozan for Turkey's contribution and its readiness to bring this cooperation to the betterment of our country's economy.



### **The Netherlands support the renewal of the preferential trading agreement Kosovo-EU**

Pristina, 21 March 2011 – the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Prishtina, Robert Bosch, promised Netherlands' assistance for Kosovo in the renewal of the preferential trading agreement between Kosovo and the European Union. Topics of discussion in the meeting between the Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj, and Ambassador Bosch, were the bilateral cooperation between the two countries, with special emphasis in economy.

### **PTK privatization – part of the structural reforms of the economy**

Pristina, 21 March 2011 – Privatization of Kosovo's Post and Telecom is part of the structural economic reforms of the country, said today Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, in an informative meeting with the Government Committee for the Privatization of Post and Telecommunication of Kosovo (PTK), with representatives of donors, International Monetary Fund, representatives of Embassies of Quint Countries in Kosovo and Ambassadors of investment countries interested in PTK. On this occasion, participants were informed on the progress marked in the private sector participation process in the Post and Telecommunication of Kosovo.





### Seasonal employment of Kosovars in Kuwait is being reviewed

Pristina, 31 March 2011 – Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, expressed the interest of the Republic of Kosovo for interstate cooperation with Kuwait in implementing common development projects in economy, and his conviction that the country will soon undertake concrete steps towards the recognition of Kosovo's independence. Minister Beqaj made these comments in the meeting with the Delegation of the Kuwaiti Inter-parliamentary Fellowship Group, headed by WaleedAl-Tabtabae, Chairman of the Group's Executive Committee, discussing the bilateral cooperation possibilities. On this occasion, Minister Beqaj raised the possibility of sending seasonal employees in Kuwait, particularly in the healthcare and engineering sectors, which would have an impact in the reducing unemployment in Kosovo.

### Four companies in the race for the privatization of KEDS

Pristina, 6 April 2011 – Government Committee for the Privatization of KEK Electricity Distribution and Supply – KEDS, met today to announce the prequalified companies in the KEDS privatization process. Final deadline for the submission of Applications for Prequalification was 18 March 2011.





### **Kosovo and Croatia will soon have a cooperation agreement in economy**

Pristina, 6 April 2011 – Republic of Kosovo will soon formalize economic cooperation with the Republic of Croatia, announced today the Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, after the meeting with the Croatian Ambassador in Prishtina, Zoran Vodopija. Minister Beqaj emphasized that there is a good cooperation of Kosovo's institutions with Croatia, which should be further deepened, and also said that this will be the purpose of his planned visit in Croatia in May this year, where it is expected that a cooperation agreement will be signed between the two countries. From his part, Ambassador Vodopija confirmed that there is a political will from both countries to promote economic cooperation, and emphasized the interest of Croatian companies to invest in infrastructure and fruit imports.



### **Kosovo and Croatia sign a Memorandum of Economic Cooperation**

Zagreb, 13 May 2011 – Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, and his Croatian counterpart, Minister of Economy, Labor and Entrepreneurship, Gjuro Popijac, signed today in Zagreb a Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Cooperation between the two countries.

The objective of this Memorandum is to strengthen bilateral friendly relations in economy, with particular priority in enhancing economic sustainability of the two through cooperation in energy, coal, natural gas, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and mutual assistance in implementing projects and initiatives in full compliance with policies and strategies of both countries in public enterprise governance.

Minister Beqaj also met the Deputy Minister of Investments, Domagoj Miloshevic, to discuss on the possibilities of economic cooperation between the two countries.



## Switzerland supports Kosovo with CHF 7 million in the water supply sector

Pristina, 1 June 2010 – Government of the Republic of Kosovo signed a cooperation agreement with the Swiss Confederation, for the provision of financial assistance in the water supply project in the South-eastern Kosovo, valued at CHF 8.4 million.

On behalf of the Kosovo Government, the agreement was signed by Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, and the Swiss Ambassador in Prishtina, Lukas Beglinger, on behalf of the Swiss counterpart. The project involves water supply for the southeastern part of Kosovo, namely the municipalities of Ferizaj and Gjilan, valued at over CHF 8 million, 7 of which will be financed by Switzerland, and over 1 million a co-financing of Government, through MED.



## Enhanced Economic Cooperation Kosovo – Albania

Pristina, 26 May 2011 – Economic and political relations Kosovo – Albania have been advanced, and there is no fiscal discrimination against Kosovo, said Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, after the meeting with Albanian Ambassador in Prishtina, Islam Lauka.

The Albanian diplomat denied any claim that Tirana is applying discriminatory tariffs against Kosovo producers.

Minister Beqaj said that he talked to Ambassador Lauka on the economic cooperation between the two countries, on their excellent relations, both political and economic.

“Kosovo and Albania have an advanced relation of economic cooperation which we don’t have with other countries, and I am grateful to the ambassador for supporting it”, said Beqaj.



## **MED presented the 100 day achievements**

Pristina, 6 June 2011 – Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, presented a report on the 100 day performance of his ministry, and highlighted the development of legal infrastructure, drafting of economic development priorities, monitoring of publicly owned enterprises, and the implementation of capital projects, including regional cooperation.

Regarding the economic development plan, the minister emphasized the important role MED has had in its design, a plan which is now in the final phase of revision, and will include timeframes of projects and the expected effects of such projects.

“We considered that such a document should not be a wish-list document, but rather a document that provides specific projects for each government portfolio, and we will see what its expected effects will be,” he added.

Minister Beqaj said that during this quarter MED was focused in its restructuring and that the legislative basis is now completed, cooperation and agreements with other ministries on the transfer of units, including budget lines, as well as staffing.



### **Over €370,000 for energy efficiency**

Pristina, 9 June 2011 – Under the scope of cooperation between the Republic of Kosovo and the Federal Republic of Germany on the development of joint projects in various areas, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed today between the MED and the German International Cooperation Agency, GIZ, which will be a basis for future contracts aimed at co-financing efficient lighting project for publicly owned buildings in municipalities.

The Project signed by the Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, the Project Leader, Gabriele Becker, and Mayors of five municipalities is in full accordance with the European standards on energy efficiency, and the National Energy Efficiency Plan, which envisages that by 2018, we reach energy efficiency improvement of 9%.



### **Minister Beqaj visited the “Prishtina 2011” Fair**

Pristina, 9 June 2011 – Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, accompanied by the Chamber of Commerce President, Safet Gërxhaliu, visited the General International Fair “Prishtina 2011”, where over 100 companies from Kosovo, the region and beyond participated.

During the visit, Minister Beqaj discussed with participants and was informed with the work and challenges faced by these businesses during the course of development.

On this occasion, Beqaj said that the government sees the business community as an important partner in economic development, and it is keen to create an environment conducive of private sector development.



### **Beqaj: Kosovo will meet its obligations of the Energy Community Treaty**

Vienna, 30 June 2011 – Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, said that Kosovo will meet its obligations of the Energy Community Treaty.

In the conference “Kosovo’s Institutions Day in the Energy Community”, organized in Vienna by MED and the Energy Community Treaty (ECT), Minister Beqaj said that the Republic of Kosovo is maximally committed to approve the legal framework in full compliance with the EU legislation, which is an essential prerequisite to achieve its Treaty obligations.

On this occasion, Minister Beqaj, informed the Secretariat on the course of priority project implementations, related to the energy sector, with a special emphasis in objectives in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

## World Bank will continue to support energy projects in Kosovo

Pristina, 7 July 2011 – ‘World Bank will continue to support energy projects in Kosovo’ was a conclusion in the meeting between the Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj, and the Executive Director of the World Bank, Konstantin Huber.

After expressing his gratitude for the support provided thus far, Minister Beqaj informed Director on energy projects, with special emphasis in the ‘Kosova e Re’ Project.

They also discussed on the assistance and support of the World Bank to energy projects, including ‘Kosova e Re’ Power Plant Project and guarantees which WB could provide for the project.

Another topic of discussion was the development of a number of studies related to renewable energy in Kosovo and the assistance which WB could provide in this.



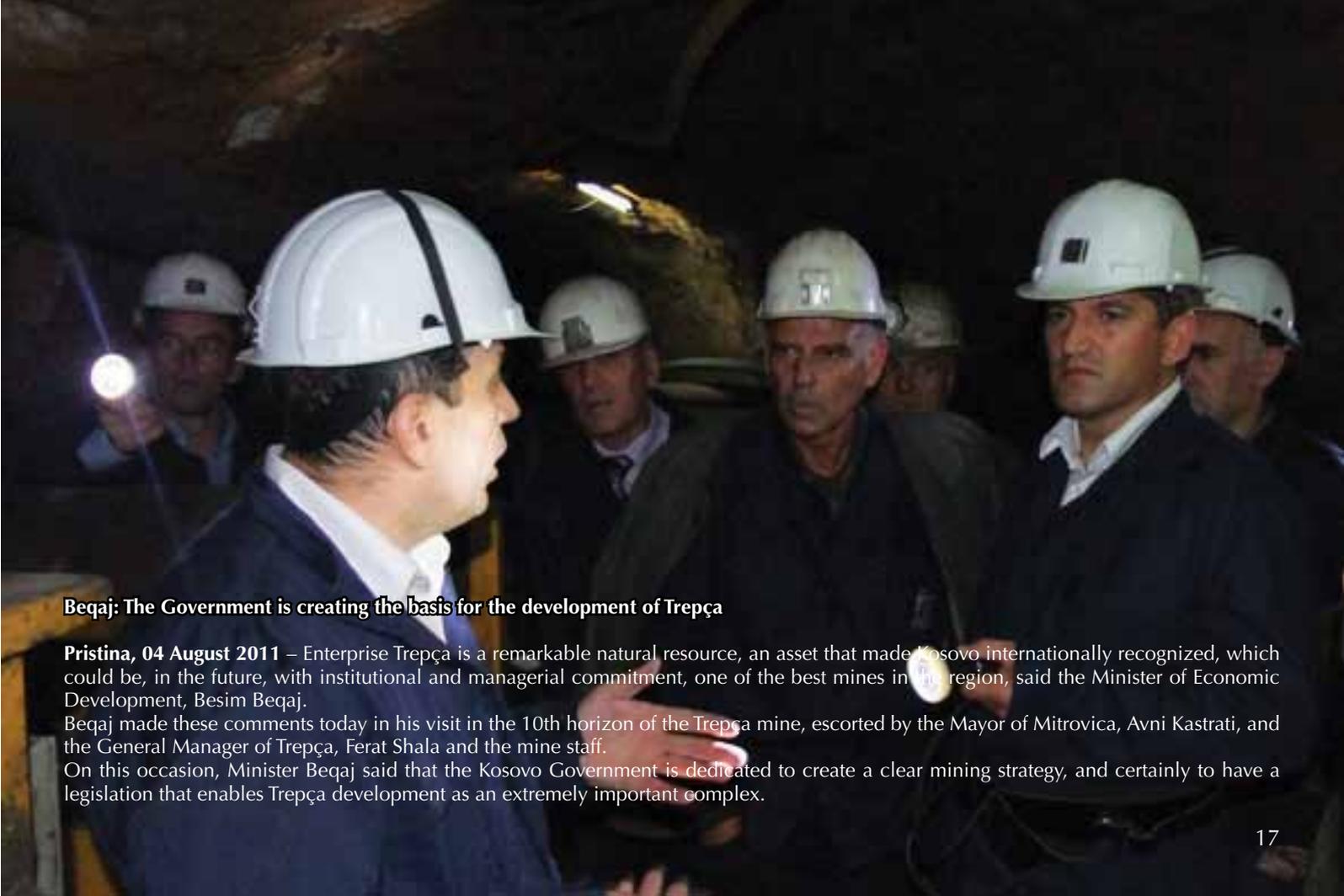
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## “Kosova e Re” Project Steering Committee starts with a new composition

Pristina, 7 July 2011 – Based on the Government Decision No. 08/17 on the Reconfiguration of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) structure for the development of the new power plant, and after the consent of the World Bank on the new structure, yesterday on 6 July 2011, the first meeting of the committee was held with the new composition.

PSC consists of MED (Chair), and members of MF, MESP, MLSW, MTI, OPM, ERO, ICMM and observers from KEK, KOSTT, World Bank, EC, USAID, KfW, and ICO.



**Beqaj: The Government is creating the basis for the development of Trepça**

**Pristina, 04 August 2011** – Enterprise Trepça is a remarkable natural resource, an asset that made Kosovo internationally recognized, which could be, in the future, with institutional and managerial commitment, one of the best mines in the region, said the Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj.

Beqaj made these comments today in his visit in the 10th horizon of the Trepça mine, escorted by the Mayor of Mitrovica, Avni Kastrati, and the General Manager of Trepça, Ferat Shala and the mine staff.

On this occasion, Minister Beqaj said that the Kosovo Government is dedicated to create a clear mining strategy, and certainly to have a legislation that enables Trepça development as an extremely important complex.



### **Serbian goods are being replaced without difficulties**

Gjilan, 10 August 2011 – The process of replacing Serbian origin products with other products is going without any difficulties, and the Government decision for reciprocity with Serbia is being strictly implemented; said the Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj during his visit today in the Gjilan municipality.

On this occasion, Minister Beqaj and his collaborators met the Mayor of Gjilan, Qemal Mustafa, and visited the Regional Water Supply Company

and the private company for the manufacturing of metal fittings “Megi”. Minister Beqaj said that the aim of this visit in Gjilan was to be informed on the development concepts of this municipality at a very important moment after the government decision to implement reciprocity measures, and to ensure the supply of necessary and quality goods, and to monitor the possible tendencies of misuses of the situation, be that from local companies, or regional ones.



## Germany strongly supports Kosovo

Pristina, 25 August 2011 – The Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj, received today the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kosovo, Ernst Reichel, for an introductory meeting, in which the latter reiterated the determination of this country to support Kosovo in all spheres.

Minister Beqaj underlined that Kosovo is very grateful to Germany for its role and for the support it provided in the development of democratic processes of our country and in the sphere of economic development.

On this occasion, he emphasized that Kosovo welcomes the very important support that the German state has provided in further Kosovo developments, especially the statement of Chancellor Angela Merkel on the resolution of problems that Serbia is causing in relation to Kosovo.

## Beqaj: Reciprocity Measures have produced a positive effect

Peja, 18 August 2011 – Reciprocity measures have generated extremely good effects, particularly for the Municipality of Pejë, as the production enterprises have an increased production, and people are consuming local quality products, said the Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj.

Minister Beqaj made these comments in his visit in the Municipality of Pejë, where he met with the Mayor, Ali Berisha, and visited the Regional Water Supply Company “Hidro Drini” and production company “Birra Peja”.

On this occasion, Minister Beqaj said that he discussed with the Mayor of Pejë on the reciprocity measures in the municipality, and the effects such measures have had in the local economy, and to the citizens of Pejë.



## **The Government is reviewing fiscal facilitations for businesses**

Gjakova, 26 August 2011 – Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Finance are reviewing a fiscal package which aims to create fiscal facilities to businesses that create new jobs, and this will be an incentive to the local businesses, said the Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj.

Beqaj made these comments today in a visit in the Municipality of Gjakovë, where he took part in the inauguration of the Fruit and Vegetable Collection and Processing Factory “Hosa” in Rogovë, Gjakovë, with the presence of the Minister of Agriculture, Blerand Stavileci, Secretary of the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce, Berat Rukiqi, representative of USAID, local officials and businessmen.



## **Kosovo is represented as a state in the Energy Meeting in Poland**

Vrocllav/Poland, 20 September 2011 – Minister of Economic Development (MED), Besim Beqaj, in an informal conference of Energy Ministers of the EU countries in Vrocllav, Poland, had numerous meetings where he presented the strategic orientation of Kosovo in the energy sector.

As a result of Kosovo's invitation as a country by Poland, the next EU Chair, Serbia representatives did not participate in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the EU Energy Commissioner, Ginter Etinger.

Discussing on the common European infrastructure development, Minister Beqaj said that the main objectives of the energy strategy are to achieve sufficient electricity independence and supply, to have a self-sustainable energy market, eliminating the need for government subsidies, and to have affordable tariffs for the Kosovo citizens.





### **Beqaj: Government's Objective is to develop the private sector**

Prishtina, 27 September 2011 – Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, concluded that the economy of the Republic of Kosovo has marked many positive steps, but that global economic problems also affected the local economy. However, the economic growth forecasts of 7-8 percent are truly hope-giving. Minister Beqaj made these comments today in the one-day conference “Opportunities and challenges of economic Development and Strengthening of the Private Sector”, organized by the Economic Development Ministry in cooperation with the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce, American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo, and the Kosovo Business Alliance, on the opportunities of economic development and the role of the private sector.

On this occasion, Beqaj said that the objective of the Kosovo Government is to develop the private sector, and that this is not a slogan, but a concrete action where all ministries which have participated in the development of the economic program are directly involved in reaching this objective.



### **Kosovo has marked progress in implementing ECT requirements**

Prishtina, 6 October 2011 – Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, said in the 9th meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community Treaty (ECT), organized in Kishinjev, Moldavia, that Kosovo has achieved tremendous progress in implementing ECT obligations and in the EU integration process.

Minister Beqaj said that the Republic of Kosovo has undertaken all the necessary steps in energy sector reforms.

He also informed the attendees that the Kosovo Assembly has adopted the basic energy laws, including the Law on Energy, Law on Electricity, Law on the Energy Regulatory Office, and the Law on Energy Efficiency, as well as other bylaws which are under implementation process.

### **Beqaj: ECT Opinion, a legal victory for Kosovo**

Pristina, 12 October 2011 – Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, called the Energy Community Treaty (ECT) opinion a very important moment. The opinion concludes that Serbia has violated the Treaty rules vis-à-vis Kosovo, and was requested to rectify the concluded violations within two months.

Minister Beqaj made these comments today in a joint conference with KOSTT Managing Director, Fadil Ismajli, introducing details of this opinion and its relevance, and it was said that Republic of Kosovo is appropriately positioned in ECT.

On this occasion, Minister Beqaj highlighted that in addition to the financial and technical aspects, this opinion of the ECT Secretariat is also important because Republic of Kosovo marks a legal victory in this mechanism, and it is now clear as to who has breached the Treaty.



### **Beqaj: PTK privatization process starts over**

Pristina, 17 October 2011 – Government Privatization Committee for PTK took a decision to declare closed the PTK privatization process and start preparations for new privatization process of the company, which will be realized pursuant to strategic directions of the Government, said Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj. Minister Beqaj made these comments today in the press conference on the publication of the GPC decision, also concluding that the decision is in line with the interests of the citizens and the country's economic development. "During this time, the Government has realized all its obligations. It has made a financial examination report, technical and business report, regulatory issues report, and has taken a decision to separate Post, which specifically defines the assets remaining with the Post, and those to be privatized", said Beqaj.





### **Kosovo – Macedonia Economic Relations have achieved positive developments**

Pristina, 14 October 2011 – Economic relations between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Macedonia have reached positive developments and this is also reflected with increased exports of Kosovo by 100 percent, said the Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, after the meeting with his Macedonian counterpart, Valon Saraçini.

The meeting of the two ministers was held prior to the beginning of the Business Forum Kosovo-Macedonia, and was focused in the possibilities to enhance economic cooperation in all areas of interest for the two countries.

Minister Beqaj said that Kosovo and Macedonia have an economic cooperation agreement, and that in line with this agreement, a Joint Inter-governmental Committee will start functioning to determine economic cooperation opportunities and potentials between the two countries.



## Minister Beqaj visited the 'Klllokot' water factory

Pristina, 20 October 2011 – The Government of Republic of Kosovo is improving its fiscal policies in order to favor local businesses, with the aim of removing all potential barriers for the development of the private sector, said the Minister of Economic Development Besim Beqaj during his visit to the mineral water production factory 'Klllokot' in Klllokot, while asking the businesses to employ an institutional approach in their operations.

During the meeting with this factory's management staff, Minister Beqaj extended the support of the Government for businesses, while emphasizing that there is an initiative to establish an Export Center that will serve this goal. Here, businesses would obtain all necessary information on the export of their products in foreign markets.



### **Beqaj: Government policies favor local businesses**

Pristina, 20 October 2011 – The Government of Kosovo will continue to make capital investments which directly influence the development of enterprises and opening of new employment possibilities, said today the Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj.

Beqaj made these comments while attending the inauguration of the production lines of metallic road shields in Vinex factory in Viti, where present were the Deputy Prime Minister Mimoza Kusari – Lila, Head of Chamber of Commerce Safet Gerxhaliu, Mayor of Viti Municipality Nexhmedin Arifi, and USAID and GIZ representatives.

Beqaj said that investments in factories like ‘Vinex’ prove that the Government of Kosovo is working in implementing its commitments to establish a better operational environment for the private sector, especially for the production sector.



### **Minister Beqaj receives a delegation of senior Maltese representatives**

Pristina, 27 October 2011 – The Minister of Economic Development Besim Beqaj, received today a delegation of senior representatives from Malta, headed by Guiseppie Madia, Minister of Health, and informed them on the country’s economic development priorities.

During the meeting, the high delegation from Malta, which included the Minister of Finance Andrea Frattini and Minister of Treasury Gaetano Mario Maza, was informed that the Government of Republic of Kosovo remains committed to a free market economy and the country’s politic, economic and technological integration in Euro-Atlantic structures.

The Government of Kosovo is committed to the improvement of competitiveness, strengthening of the private sector, increasing employment possibilities, improvement of Kosovo’s investment image and the establishment of a safe and stable business environment, said Minister Beqaj.

## **Beqaj: Kosovo strongly supports the implementation of the eSEE plus agenda**

Tirana, 7 November 2011 – The Government of Republic of Kosovo strongly supports the initiative of the Council for Regional Cooperation for an Electronic Southeast Europe, and remains dedicated to see the eSEE Agenda Plus action plan implemented in Kosovo, within the set deadlines, said the Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj in the meeting organized in Tirana by the Council for Regional Cooperation for the Electronic Southeast Europe.

Present at this high-level meeting on the development of the technological society, which gathered ministers from the region covering Information Technology, was also the Prime Minister of Albania Sali Berisha, as well as representatives of the EC, UNDP, ITU Telecommunication Development Office, etc, whereas Serbia left the meeting after Minister Beqaj took the floor.

## **Beqaj: Efficient lighting, part of the National EE Plan**

Pristina, 10 November 2011 – The Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj, accompanied by the Mayor of Prishtina Isa Mustafa, symbolically inaugurated today the public efficient lighting project, which covered the installation of efficient bulbs in the 'Ilir Konushevcij' St. in the capital. Using this occasion Minister Beqaj expressed his satisfaction for being able to promote along with the Mayor of Prishtina this new energy efficiency project, which is being developed in the framework of the National Energy Efficiency Plan. "These common plans are developed with municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo, and are supported by GIZ. MED has also taken similar public lighting measures in other municipalities, using efficient bulbs, which save electricity, have a longer operational life and provide the citizens with higher quality lighting", said Beqaj.





**Minister Beqaj meets  
the World Bank  
Director for the South-  
East Europe, Armitage**

Pristina, 10 November 2011 – Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj, yesterday met a delegation of the World Bank Director for the South-East Europe, Jane Armitage.

Topics of discussion included the four-year strategy of the World Bank for Kosovo, including further support for the energy sector.

Armitage confirmed the commitment of the World Bank to continue Kosovo development support. She informed the minister that preparations are underway to develop a new strategy of the World Bank for Kosovo for the period 2012-2015.



### **Minister Beqaj met the Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayip Erdoan**

Istanbul, 16 November 2011 – Economic Development Minister, Besim Beqaj, met today in Istanbul with the Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayip Erdoan with whom he discussed on the economic situation in the two countries and important process Kosovo is going through. Participating in the Black Sea Energy and Economic Forum, Minister Beqaj met with Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey in charge of economy, Ali Babacan, and discussed with him on economic development and reviewed possibilities for a bilateral cooperation in economy between the two countries.

On this occasion, Beqaj presented concrete projects under implementation in energy, mining, telecommunication, road infrastructure, tourism, and also informed Mr. Babacan on the potentials for investments by Turkish enterprises in the Republic of Kosovo.

In relation to this, Minister Beqaj presented economic development priorities and measures implemented with the aim of creating a good business environment, which will have an impact in reducing unemployment, and accelerating economic growth in the country.



### Over 2.7 million Euros for quality water supply in the rural areas

Pristina, 2 December 2011 – Ministry of Economic Development (MED) has signed a co-financing agreement with the Swiss Office for Cooperation for the Project “Rural Water and Sanitation Support Program, Phase IV” to be implemented in the Southeastern Kosovo.

The Agreement was signed by the Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj, and the Director of the Swiss Office for Cooperation in Kosovo, Markus Baechler, and it envisages that the Rural Water and Sanitation Support Program, shall be funded with CHF 2,5 million by the Swiss Government, and €940,000 by the Kosovo Government.



### Beqaj: Llamkos, an example for foreign investors

Pristina, 15 December 2011 - Economic development and social welfare happens wherever factories are, said today Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj, during his visit to the re-privatized company Llamkos – GalvaSteel in Vushtrri, while underlining the support of the Government for private sector development. Minister Beqaj said that he was encouraged by the company’s management, whom informed the former that the Llamkos privatization process, by means of liquidation, cost 7 million euro and the company currently employs around 350 staff members. “This is what Kosovo’s economy needs. This is in total harmony with the economic development vision we have adopted. We said that the private sector should become the bearer of our economic development, while the dynamics adopted by the private sector further dictate the dynamics of other sectors, and have a direct impact on making Kosovo more attractive for investments”, said Beqaj.

## **Beqaj: Completion of the legislation framework is the main achievement in 2011**

Pristina, 27 December 2011 – Completion of the legal framework on economy, the positive opinion of the Energy Community Treaty on the KOSTT complaint, and a 96 percent realization of MED budgetary projections, are considered as the major successes of the Ministry for 2011 by Minister Beqaj.

In the closing conference of the year, Minister Beqaj listed the MED achievements, the status of projects under implementation, and priorities for 2012.

Speaking of successes, he said that MED has completed its legislative agenda for 2011, because of the adoption of the Law on Energy Efficiency, Law on the Privatization Agency of Kosovo, Law on the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court, Law on the Reorganization of Enterprises and their Assets, and the Draft-Law on Information Society Services was approved in the Government, and the Draft-Law on Electronic Communication, and the Amendment of the Law on Publicly Owned Enterprises are expected to be adopted.

Other relevant bylaws have also been adopted, including the Mining Strategy 2012-2025, Heating Strategy 2011 – 2018, Museum of Crystals, Mining Fees, Geological Surveys, Energy Balances, etc.

On the PTK, KEDS, and TPP Kosova e Re Projects, Beqaj said that with some exceptions, they are going in line with the plan, and added that the objective of the Government was to ensure a better management of public assets.

The “Government Privatization Committee” (GPC) has issued a decision to restart the process from the beginning. With the aim of increasing the value of shares – GPC decided to undertake certain reforms (reduce operational costs, etc.). Separation of Post unit was initiated in November, and the Expression of Interest was also pub-

lished for the selection of a Transaction Advisor – which will be completed in January 2012”, said Beqaj.

Head of MED praised the work on the KEDS privatization, and said that it continued with an extraordinary pace, that the Invitation to Bid was issued, and that it is expected that the Distribution winner is declared in March.

“Kosova e Re Power Plant” project encountered some delays with the World Bank, and after the harmonization with this institution, MED in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, decided to select the Transaction Advisor under a competitive procedure, in which case around 6 million Euros were saved”, and added that the Government’s focus is to implement this project fully in line with the EU and WB.

The minister further noted that MED proceeded with the Monitoring process of 15 POEs and exercising its advisory role in relation to the Law on Publicly Owned Enterprises, Code of Ethics, and Corporate Governance.

Beqaj also mentioned the participation and organization of high level meetings, including business forums, meetings under the Energy Community and EBRD, and bilateral meetings with counterparts and leaders of various countries.

The Minister listed the following priorities for 2012; further implementation of projects (PTK, KEDS, TPP “Kosova e Re”), Organization of activities with the aim of promoting investments in Energy, Mining, Telecommunication, and IT, Strengthening and enhancing cooperation with the business community, with the aim of developing policies, strategies, which will positively affect competitiveness in the private sector.





## Minister Beqaj met with the head of the Italian-Kosovo Chamber of Commerce

Pristina, 28 December 2011 - Minister of Economic Development, Besim Beqaj, received the President of the Italian-Kosovar Chamber of Commerce, Hamdi Muhamedi. The focus of the discussion was investment opportunities in the Republic of Kosovo by the Italian businesses. On this occasion, Minister Beqaj informed the representatives of the Italian-Kosovar Chamber of Commerce on the investment opportunities in the areas covered by the Ministry of Economic Development, including potentials in renewable energy.

From his part, the head of the Italian-Kosovar Chamber of Commerce, Hamdi Muhamedi informed Minister Beqaj on the interest of Italian companies to invest in Kosovo, respectively in renewable energy generation.

## Kosovo – UAE business forum is proposed

Pristina, 20 December 2011 – Minister of Economic Development (MED), Besim Beqaj, received today the Ambassador of United Arab Emirates in Ankara and the non-residential UAE Ambassador in Kosovo, Khalid Khalifa Al Mualla, with whom he discussed on the possibilities to intensify economic cooperation between the two countries. At this occasion, Minister Beqaj presented the country's economic development priorities and informed the UAE delegation on the projects under implementation and projects planned for the future, mostly concentrating on those in the sphere of energy, mining and telecommunication. Minister Beqaj informed the UAE Ambassador on Kosovo's potentials in the food processing sphere, underlining the fact that country continues to import a great part of its food products, and invited the UAE companies to invest in this sector, convinced that Kosovo will represent an adequate market for their investments.







## **Ministry of Economic Development**

Public Communication Office

“Mother Theresa” Boulevard, 10000 Prishtina, Kosovo

Tel: + 381 200 215 05; Fax: 200 215 02;

Web: <http://mzhe.rks-gov.net>



