

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FINAL COMPROMISE AMENDMENTS

Draft Report on the 2019-2020 Commission reports on Kosovo (2019/2172(INI))

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version of 18/02/2021

PARAGRAPHS

COMP 1

Paragraph 1

AM58 (Mandl/EPP), AM59 (Rapporteur), AM60 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew)

AM54 (ID), AM55 (ID), AM56 (The Left), AM57 (EPP) fall

1. Welcomes Kosovo's continued ***and strong*** (AM58, AM60) commitment to advancing on its European path ***and to accelerate reforms*** (AM59), as well as the strong support for European integration among Kosovo's population ***and its European identity*** (AM58);

AM61 (ID) VOTE

COMP 2

Paragraph 2

AM63 (Mandl/EPP), AM64 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew)

AM62 (The Left) fall

2. Regrets the limited progress in implementing the ERA 1, **while acknowledging the commitment of the Government for a broad reform process as foreseen by ERA 2**; (AM63, AM64) ~~[and]~~ calls on the Kosovo authorities to take ownership of the process, demonstrate greater political will and improve administrative capacity in order to enhance implementation of the EU-related reforms;

COMP 3

Paragraph 3

AM68 (Mandl/EPP), AM69 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM70 (Rapporteur)

AM65 (EPP), AM66 (The Left), AM67 (ID)

3. Expresses concern about the dissolution of the Ministry of the EU Integration, and calls on the Government of Kosovo to **fully and properly integrate the former structures of the Ministry [~~of EU Integration~~] as foreseen by the newly approved Regulation on the Organisational Structure of the Prime Minister's Office [as well as]** to (AM68, AM69) ensure that the new structure is granted the level of competence and responsibilities appropriate to ensuring proper coordination **and steering** (AM70) of the integration process;

COMP 4

Paragraph 4

AM71 (Picula et al./S&D), AM72 (Rapporteur), AM73 (Picula et al./S&D)

4. Welcomes the peaceful and orderly conduct of the early legislative elections of 6 October 2019, **but expresses its concern over the lack of competition, freedom of choice and expression in the Kosovo Serb community** (AM72); stresses the importance of addressing all the shortcomings identified and recommendations made by the EUEOM; **regrets that Kosovo continues to struggle with political instability following the elections** (AM71) **and, in this regard, calls on all political forces in Kosovo to [reform the political system, through constitutional changes, in order to] improve legal certainty and [the process of] new government [formation]** (AM 73 and Rapporteur);

AM74 (withdrawn)

COMP 5

Paragraph 5

AM81 (Mandl/EPP), AM82 (Rapporteur), AM83 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM84 (Picula et al./S&D)

AM75 (The Left), AM76 (EPP), AM77 (ID), AM78 (NI), AM79 (ID), AM80 (Renew) fall

5. Welcomes the Commission's **confirmation, in its 2020 Kosovo report, of ~~statement of 26 August 2020 confirming~~** (AM82) its assessment **of regarding** (AM82) Kosovo's ability to benefit from the visa liberalisation regime, and calls on the Council to urgently proceed with the adoption of a visa-free regime for the citizens of Kosovo; **recalls, in this regard, that Kosovo continues to fulfil all the benchmarks of the visa liberalisation roadmap, as consistently confirmed by the Commission since July 2018** (AM 81, AM 82); **regrets that during 2020 the Council still did not manage to adopt the visa liberalisation for Kosovo;** (AM84) **takes the view that visa liberalisation will improve stability and bring Kosovo closer to the EU by improving the ease of travelling and doing business;** (AM81) **notes that the isolation of Kosovo citizens is impacting the implementation of EU programmes and that the lack of a decision from the Council is withholding urgently needed opportunities for the citizens of Kosovo, weakening the EU's credibility, and could have an impact on the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue;** (AM81, AM82, AM83)

COMP 6

Paragraph 6

AM 87 (Zovko/EPP), AM 88 (Mandl/EPP),

AM 85 (The Left), AM86 (ID) fall

6. Calls on the EU Member States to show continued commitment to enlargement, **delivering on their promises once conditions are met,** (AM 88) and to pursue a more effective communication policy towards EU citizens on enlargement; **calls on the Commission and the EU delegation to Kosovo to step up their efforts in promoting the role, efforts and benefits of the closer partnership between the EU and Kosovo** (AM 87);

AM90 (EPP) - VOTE

COMP 7

Paragraphs 8 and 8a (new) [transatlantic cooperation]

AM94 (Mandl/EPP), AM95 (Kovatchev/EPP), AM96 (Rapporteur), AM97 (Zovko/EPP), AM98 (McAllister/EPP), AM100 (Mandl/EPP), AM102 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew)

AM91 (The Left), AM92 (The Left), AM93 (ID) fall

8. Notes the signature of ~~the agreement~~ *agreements* (AM98) for economic normalisation *between by* (AM98) Kosovo and Serbia on 4 September in Washington; *regrets, however, provisions in the text that ask Kosovo to stop seeking membership in international organisations;* (AM96) *welcomes the renewed engagement of the United States and underlines the need for the EU and the United States to strengthen their partnership and coordination in the Western Balkans;* (AM94, AM102) underlines that transatlantic cooperation is ~~a crucial~~ *an important* (AM97) factor for stability in the region *[and] stresses the leading role of the EU as mediator in the process of normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia;* (AM94, AM95)

8a (new) Acknowledges the important contribution of KFOR and the participating States in maintaining a safe and secure environment, freedom of movement for all citizens in Kosovo and in facilitating the Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkans; (AM100)

AM101 (The Left), - VOTE

COMP 8

Paragraph 8b (new)

AM96 (Rapporteur), AM99 (Picula et al./S&D)

8b (new) Recalls that establishing an Embassy of Kosovo to Israel in Jerusalem would go against the position of the European Union on the two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine dispute; (AM96, AM99)

COMP 9

Paragraph 9

AM105 (Mandl/EPP)

AM104 (ID) falls

9. Welcomes the progress in adapting the legal framework on the rule of law, *including the Law on the disciplinary liability of judges and prosecutors and the Law on mediation as well as the roll-out of an electronic case management system and central criminal record registry;* (AM105) regrets, however, the weak level of implementation, and calls on the Kosovo authorities to step up efforts in enforcing the laws to the benefit of their citizens *as well as [to] ensure better coordination of various rule of law programmes supported by various donors, including the development of an overall review and subsequent strategy for the entire rule of law sector;* (AM105)

COMP 10

Paragraph 10 and 10a (new)

AM106 (Castaldo/NI), AM108 (Rapporteur), AM109 (Nistor/EPP), AM110 (Paet/Renew)

AM107 (ID) falls

10. Stresses the need to intensify the fight against corruption, and expresses its serious concern about the abolition of the special anti-corruption ~~department~~ **task force** (AM106, AM108) within the Kosovo Police (KP); **underlines that a strong political will is needed to effectively fight corruption** (AM110, AM108) and **calls on the Kosovo authorities to show determination in combatting corruption at all levels;** (AM106)

10a (new) Urges the government to create and maintain strong and dedicated entities that will address organised crime and corruption (AM109) **and calls to cease any changes of law enforcement and anti-corruption institutions based on party political interests;** (AM108)

COMP 11

Paragraph 11, 11a (new), 11b (new) and 11c (new) [*high-level corruption and organised crime*]

AM111 (Picula et al./S&D), AM 112 (Rapporteur), AM113 (Rapporteur), AM114 (Mandl/EPP), AM115 (Picula et al./S&D), AM116 (Mandl/EPP), AM120 (Rapporteur), AM254 (Paet/Renew)

11. Calls on Kosovo to improve **the implementation of** (AM113) its regulatory measures ~~for relating to~~ (AM113) the freezing, confiscation and recovery of assets, and ~~for regarding~~ (AM113) final convictions in cases of high-level corruption, organised and financial crime, money laundering and terrorist financing, **including suspension measures for public officials indicted for such offenses,** (AM114) **and to ensure there is no interference with operational activities of law enforcement bodies and the prosecution;** (AM113)

11a (new) Is concerned that despite an adequate normative framework, Kosovo's justice system continues to be undermined by accountability shortcomings, transparency issues, and political interference; (AM120); **regrets the lack of tangible results in the fight against organised crime and expects more progress to be made in strengthening the track record on the investigation and prosecution of high-level corruption and cases of organised crime,** (AM111, AM115, AM116) **including cases of trafficking in human beings and drugs, and cybercrime,** (AM111, AM116)

11b (new) *[Calls on Kosovo to] ensure that financial and audit reports of political party financing are consistently available and sanctions are applied when they are due; (AM114) notes also the need to improve the financial oversight and accountability of publicly owned enterprises; (AM113) welcomes [in this respect] the proposal for the new Law on Financing of Political Parties and encourages the National Assembly to adopt a legal framework regulating political party financing in line with the Venice Commission recommendations; (AM112)*

11c (new) *Welcomes the steps taken in building cybersecurity capacity, most notably by adopting its first National Cybersecurity Strategy; considers it crucial to maintain this momentum to enable the full enforcement of legislative initiatives in this area and to tackle the shortage of skilled professionals in ICT and cybersecurity; (AM254)*

COMP 12

Paragraph 11d (new), 11e (new) and 11f (new) *[fighting terrorism and radicalisation]*

AM117 (Castaldo/NI), AM118 (Mandl/EPP), AM119 (Rapporteur), AM121 (Mandl/EPP), AM122 (Paet/Renew), AM123 (Rapporteur), AM124 (Rapporteur), AM125 (Rapporteur), AM126 (Dzhambazki/ECR), AM288 (Rapporteur), AM289 (Mandl/EPP)

11d (new) *Commends Kosovo's efforts in fighting radicalisation, terrorism and violent extremism, including in stemming the outflow of foreign fighters; (AM121, AM122, AM124, AM125) underlines that additional efforts are needed in addressing the financing of terrorism, as well as rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign fighters; (AM124) calls for active regional cooperation and greater coordination and exchange of information between the security services of the Republic of Kosovo and the EU [and its Member States] in countering potential terrorist activities (AM121, AM125, AM126); urges Kosovo to address online radicalisation and external extremist influences and calls on the Commission and the Member States to assist Kosovo in this important endeavour; (AM121)*

11e (new) *Is concerned by third countries' efforts in supporting radicalisation, especially of young people, often by financing or providing significant resources such as to education institutions in Kosovo, which could be breeding grounds for radicalisation (AM123) [and] that the current COVID-related situation could have detrimental effects on the de-radicalisation efforts, given the worsening economic situation (AM122); welcomes the conclusion of a Working Arrangement between the Kosovo Police and Europol, which will constitute the basis for enhanced cooperation in fighting terrorism and extremism as well as transnational organised crime, and calls for its implementation as soon as possible; (AM117, AM118, AM119)*

11f (new) *Commends Kosovo in its continuous and constructive cooperation on migration (AM288, AM289) and the continued reduction in the number of asylum requests*

and readmissions of Kosovo's citizens as well as the good cooperation of Kosovar authorities on readmission; (AM289) takes positive note of the adoption of the Regulation on Integration of Foreigners and calls for its full implementation; (AM289) stresses that further actions are needed to ensure sufficient administrative and enforcement capacity to tackle migration challenges, including smuggling of migrants; (AM288)

COMP 13

Paragraph 12

AM128 (Mandl/EPP), AM129 (Rapporteur),

AM 127 (ID) falls

AM130 (Castaldo/NI) withdrawn

12. Welcomes the adoption *by the Kosovo Judicial Council* (AM129) of measures helping to limit ~~*external interference-undue influence*~~ (AM128) in judicial proceedings, as well as the increase in final court judgments published; believes that further measures are required to ensure greater independence *and de-politicisation* (AM128) of the judiciary and to stop undue interference in high-profile cases;

COMP 14

Paragraph 13 and 13a

AM131 (Rapporteur), AM132 (Castaldo/NI), AM133 (McAllister/EPP), AM134 (Rapporteur), AM135 (Mandl/EPP), AM136 (Picula et al./S&D)

13. Reiterates its *full* (AM 132) support for the work of the *Kosovo* (AM133) Specialist Chambers and the Specialist Prosecutor's Office, *which are an important demonstration of Kosovo's commitment to the rule of law and whose work is also in the interest of Kosovo* (AM131); stresses the importance of the Specialist Chambers being able to continue their work independently, without any outside interference; *welcomes the prolongation of the mandate of the KSC and its work in The Hague* (AM131)

13a (new) Welcomes the prolongation of the mandate of the EULEX mission (AM134, AM135) *and asks Kosovo to fully cooperate with EULEX and with the Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office in good faith;* (AM132, AM134) *regrets the attempts to undermine the mandate of EULEX;* (AM136) *reiterates its call on EULEX to*

increase its effectiveness and uphold the highest standards of transparency and a zero-tolerance approach to corruption; (AM135)

AM137 (Rapporteur) - VOTE

COMP 15

Paragraph 14

AM139 (Rapporteur), AM140 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM142 (Mandl/EPP)

AM138 (ID), AM141 (NI) fall

14. Reiterates that selections and appointments for high-level decision-making positions in the civil service and publicly owned enterprises remain of great concern *and notes that appointments for such positions need to take place on the basis of a merit-based, fair and competitive process;* (AM140, 142); *acknowledges the efforts of the government of Kosovo through signing the memorandums of understanding with the United Kingdom to oversee this process;* (AM140); *repeats its call for progress and clear political commitment to public administration reform by advancing the implementation of the relevant legislation;* (AM139)

COMP 16

Paragraph 15

AM143 (Rapporteur), AM144 (Mandl/EPP), AM145 (Mandl/EPP), AM258 (Picula et al./S&D)

15. Welcomes the improvement in the organisation of the work of the ~~National~~ *Kosovo* (AM144) Assembly and the management of plenary sessions based on the rules of procedure; regrets however the frequent lack of quorum, and *ongoing hold-ups in parliamentary work, which has been particularly damaging in the process of adopting the pandemic-related relief package;* (AM143) *regrets that the Assembly of Kosovo was unable to pass a second economic recovery package in the first attempt,* (AM258) *underlines the importance of political stability and* (AM145) calls on the Assembly and the Government *to work together in the spirit of constructiveness, [and]* (AM145) to adhere to parliamentary best practices;

COMP 17

Paragraph 16

AM147 (Zovko/EPP), AM148 (Rapporteur), AM221 (Rapporteur)

AM146 (ID), falls

16. Notes that Kosovo's legal and institutional framework broadly guarantees the protection of human, *minority* (AM147) and fundamental rights; underlines that challenges remain in its implementation, in particular as regards language rights, *including multilingual broadcasting, a lack of which impacts the minority communities' access to information and has been particularly harmful during the COVID-19 pandemic*; (AM148) *calls on Kosovo to provide equal and non-discriminatory state education in minority languages (AM147) and ensure access to official documents in all official languages across Kosovo, (AM 221) as well equal opportunities, adequate representation in political life, access to public administration and judiciary*; (AM147)

COMP 18

Paragraph 17

AM149 (Rapporteur), AM152 (Mandl/EPP), AM153 (Paet/Renew), AM155 (Bilík/EPP)

AM151 (ID), AM154 (EPP) fall

17. Calls for greater protection and inclusion of persons belonging to minorities, including Roma, Ashkali, ~~and~~ Egyptians, *Serbs*, (AM155) *Bosniak, Turkish and Gorani* (AM152) as well as persons with disabilities *and displaced persons* (AM153), by providing them with adequate health and social protection and care, *in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic and in light of its socio-economic consequences*; (AM149) urges more efforts to fight discrimination and antigypsyism; *is particularly concerned by the social discrimination against Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, their exclusion from political and social decision-making and continued lack of resources and access to employment opportunities, justice, public services, housing, healthcare, sewage systems, and running water*; (AM149)

AM150 (EPP, ECR), AM156 (EPP, ECR) - VOTE

COMP 19

Paragraph 18, 18 a (new), 18 b (new), 18c (new) and 18d (new) [*media, information environment and disinformation*]

AM103 (Rapporteur), AM158 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM159 (Rapporteur), AM160 (Mandl/EPP), AM161 (Paet/Renew), AM162 (Rapporteur), AM163 (Mandl/EPP), AM164 (Mandl/EPP), AM165 (Rapporteur), AM166 (Rapporteur)

18. Notes the failure to ensure the financial and editorial freedom of the public broadcaster; reiterates the need to guarantee ~~full~~ *media* (AM158) transparency, ~~of~~ *including* (AM158) media ownership, *as well as independence of media, free from any political influence*; *calls*

for a swift appointment of the Head of the Information and Privacy Agenda (AM159); stresses the need to step up the fight against threats and attacks against journalists and end impunity for these crimes; (AM159, AM161) recognises that despite these challenges, freedom of expression is enshrined in Kosovo's Constitution and there is a pluralistic and lively media environment; (AM159, AM160)

18a (new) Encourages the establishment of a multinational and multilingual public broadcaster that would unite people and promote Peace and reconciliation among Southeast European States, following the example of ARTE; (AM164)

18b (new) Regrets the increasing number of SLAPP (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation) cases, by which journalists and individuals are being threatened and sued in order to silence them and make public debate impossible; (AM166)

18c (new) Welcomes the adoption of the Law on Protection of Whistleblowers and encourages to proceed with all the necessary by-laws for its effective and efficient implementation; calls in this respect for the swift appointment of the Commissioner for the Information and Privacy Agency; (AM165)

18d (new) Is concerned about disinformation campaigns to delegitimise Kosovo's statehood; (AM103)Calls for the strengthening of European cooperation with Kosovo on addressing disinformation and hybrid threats that seek to undermine the European perspective of the region and to fight regional disinformation campaigns, including by more strategically underscoring the EU's relevance to citizens in the region (AM162, AM163); reminds of the strong link between weaknesses in media freedom and opportunities for local and foreign actors to manipulate facts and spread disinformation; calls on the Commission and the EEAS to closely cooperate on those linkages [and overlapping challenges], as well as to foster the creation of a Balkan-focused Centre of Excellence on disinformation; (AM162)

COMP 20

Paragraph 19 and 19a (new) [*civil society and international donors*]

AM167 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM168 (Mandl/EPP), AM169 (Rapporteur), AM171 (Rapporteur)

AM170 (ID) falls

19. *Commends the continued efforts of Kosovo authorities to enhance the ability of civil society to contribute meaningfully to policy development; (AM167, AM168) calls for further improving ~~better~~ (AM167, AM168) cooperation between government and civil society, and*

for increased participation of civil society in policymaking; *reiterates the need for an enhanced accountability and transparency in public funding for civil society*; (AM167, AM169)

19a (new) Is concerned by the lack of coordination of international donors, cited by several organisations active in the country, and urges the Kosovar government to take action in order to avoid doubling efforts and unnecessary overlaps, and to manage its relations with international donors more effectively; (AM171)

COMP 21

Paragraph 20

AM173 (Rapporteur)

AM172 (ECR) falls

20. Welcomes the progress on the protection of LGBTI rights at the legislative and policy level; notes, however, the need for full implementation of the existing anti-discrimination framework, and calls for the proper investigation of cases of hate crime against LGBTI persons; *calls on the government to include same-sex partnerships in the Civil Code project, as guaranteed by the country's Constitution*; (AM173)

COMP 22

Paragraph 21

AM175 (Rapporteur), AM177 (Mandl/EPP),

AM174 (EPP), AM176 (EPP) fall

21. Hails the unanimous decision by the (AM 177) Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo *on 25 September 2020* (AM 175, AM177) to give direct effect to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (*Istanbul Convention*); *expects the Kosovo government to move swiftly to implement the content of the Convention and provide the necessary resources and infrastructure to that effect*; (AM175)

COMP 23

Paragraph 22 and 22a (new)

AM179 (Mandl/EPP), AM180 (Rapporteur), AM181 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM182 (Rapporteur)

AM 178 (ID) falls

22. *Welcomes the adoption of the Kosovo programme for gender equality as well as the work of the Women's Caucus in the Kosovo Assembly (AM179); calls on the Kosovo authorities to increase efforts to promote gender equality and strengthen the economic position of women (AM179, AM181), including by prioritising gender mainstreaming and increased cooperation with civil society, including women's organisations, as well as by creating an environment conducive to the better representation of women in decision-making positions and by making sure school textbooks do not perpetuate stereotypes and discrimination; calls in this respect for the participation of women in the negotiation team responsible for the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue; equally, demands that the EU side supports this endeavour and these efforts by adhering to the above mentioned recommendations itself; (AM180)*

22a (new) *Is concerned about the inactivity rate of women, including due to ongoing gender discrimination in the labour market, and calls on the Kosovo authorities to improve the participation of women in the labour market; urges Kosovo to adapt the new Labour law to also regulate leave in order to avoid gender-based discrimination when it comes to rights related to maternity leave, paternity leave and parental leave; (AM182)*

COMP 24

Paragraph 23, 23a (new) and 23b (new)

AM177 (Mandl/EPP), AM185 (Rapporteur), AM186 (Rapporteur), AM188 (Rapporteur)

AM183 (EPP), AM184 (ECR) fall

23. *Reiterates its concern about the scale of domestic and gender-based violence; welcomes the revisions of the Criminal Code in this respect, as well as improvements observed in the EULEX report in certain aspects of the Kosovo police's handling of sexual violence cases; (AM185) notes, however, that the lack of prosecutions and serious punishment, (AM185) impunity of perpetrators, insufficient systems for tracking and case databases, lack of adequate resources and services for victims (shelters, centres for examination, trauma support, counselling), outstanding training and institutionalised treatment protocols for the entire justice system are (AM185) still of concern;*

23a (new) *Stresses the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a detrimental impact on women and minorities by deepening inequality, exacerbating existing problems, including increased domestic violence, and calls on the Kosovar government and authorities to take these issues into account in their responses to the pandemic; (AM186)*

23b (new) *Hails the adoption of the Law on Child Protection, as a significant step in the protection of children’s rights in Kosovo (AM188); highlights the importance of the fight against violence against children; (AM177) stresses that adequate financial and human resources are needed to ensure its effective implementation; points to a particular need to tackle the persistent problem of child and forced marriages, especially in Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, by introducing a legal age for marriage and ensuring adequate actions by and reporting to law enforcement and justice institutions; (AM188)*

AM187 (Rapporteur) - VOTE

COMP 25

Paragraph 24

AM192 (EPP)

AM189 (The Left), AM190 (NI), AM191 (ID) fall

24. Welcomes Kosovo’s efforts in maintaining constructive neighbourly relations throughout the region and in proactively aligning with the EU’s common foreign and security policy (CFSP); *welcomes Kosovo’s commitment to regional initiatives and calls for the implementation of obligations within various regional frameworks that advance the Common Regional Market; (AM 192)*

COMP 26

Paragraph 25, 25a (new)

AM197 (Mandl/EPP), AM199 (Castaldo/NI), AM200 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM201 (McAllister/EPP), AM204 (Mandl/EPP), AM223 (Rapporteur), AM 224 (Bil ík/EPP)

AM193 (ID), AM194 (The Left), AM195 (ID), AM196 (EPP) fall

25. Stresses that normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo is a priority and a precondition for EU accession *of both countries (AM197, AM200) that would also be essential in securing stability and prosperity for the wider region; acknowledges the increased engagement from both sides in the EU-facilitated dialogue (AM197) [and] calls for active and constructive engagement in the EU-facilitated dialogue led by the EU Special Representative, seeking a comprehensive, sustainable (AM201)) and legally binding agreement in accordance with international law; reiterates its call to move forward with the full implementation, in good faith and in a timely manner, of all the agreements already reached [including] the establishing of the Association/Community of Serb majority municipalities without further delay; (AM223, AM224) calls on the EEAS to set up a mechanism to monitor and verify the implementation of all the agreements so far reached and to report periodically*

to the European Parliament about the state of play; (AM199) in this regard, reiterates its full support for the EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue Miroslav Laják; (AM 204)

25a new *Urges the Serbian and Kosovo Governments to refrain from any action that could undermine trust between the parties and put the constructive continuation of the dialogue at risk; (AM197) reiterates the importance of the multi-ethnic nature of both Kosovo and Serbia and that ethnically homogeneous states should not be the objective in the region;*

COMP 27

Paragraph 25b (new) and 25c (new)

AM198 (Rapporteur), AM202 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM203 (Picula et al./S&D),

25b new *Underlines that the long-term stability and prosperity of Kosovo remains dependent on the development of relations between the Kosovo Albanians and the Kosovo Serbs and that all political forces are responsible to uphold and support a political culture based on tolerance, inclusion and mutual understanding and respect; (AM202)*

25c new *Calls on Kosovo to tackle ongoing internal problems of its approach to the dialogue, introduce a dedicated team for the negotiations, as well as a joint negotiating platform and a dialogue between the ruling coalition and opposition parties; (AM198) stresses that the conduct of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue must be open and transparent and that the officials in charge for it should regularly consult with the Kosovo Assembly on its developments; invites the government to communicate better the results of the dialogue to the citizens of Kosovo; (AM203)*

COMP 28

Paragraph 26

AM212 (Nistor/EPP), AM213 (Rapporteur), AM214 (Mandl/EPP), AM215 (Zovko/EPP), AM216 (Castaldo/NI)

AM 205 (EPP), AM206 (ID), AM207 (The Left), AM208 (NI), AM209 (ID), AM210 (EPP), AM211 (The Left) fall

26. Notes that five [EU] Member States have not yet recognised Kosovo, and reiterates its call for them to do so *and to reaffirm credible European commitment to the enlargement process* (AM215); stresses that *the independence of Kosovo is irreversible [and that]* (AM216) recognition would be beneficial to the normalisation of relations between Kosovo

and Serbia, *would enhance and consolidate the stability of the region and facilitate the EU integration of both states*; (AM212) *welcomes the recent recognition of the independence of Kosovo by Israel within the framework of the agreements signed in Washington but* (AM214) *condemns Serbia's non-recognition campaign against Kosovo, which led to several countries withdrawing their recognition*; (AM213)

COMP 29

Paragraph 27, 27a (new)

AM220 (Mandl/EPP), AM221 (Rapporteur), AM222 (Bil ík/EPP), AM223 (Rapporteur),

AM218 (S&D), AM219 (ID) falls

27. Commends the good regional cooperation between Kosovo and Serbia in the fight against the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, including cooperation between the mayors of *North and South* (AM220) Mitrovica and communication between Ministers of Health;

27a (new) Regrets that the Mitrovica Bridge has not yet been opened to all traffic, in spite of the completion of the renovation works; (AM221, AM222) *calls on the Serbian and Kosovar authorities to promote people-to-people contacts between local communities in order to strengthen dialogue, including at a non-governmental level*; (AM221) *calls on the Commission, EEAS and the Council to support the Prime Minister and his team in the internal reconciliation dialogue with Kosovo Serbs, providing concrete security guarantees and opportunities for socio-economic integration*, (AM223)

COMP 30

Paragraph 27 c (new)

AM225 (Mandl/EPP), AM226 (Rapporteur), AM227 (Zovko/EPP)

27 c (new) Welcomes the Commission's efforts to invest more strategically in the Western Balkans through a dedicated Economic and Investment Plan (EIP); (AM225, AM226, AM227) *recognises the importance of the EIP in supporting sustainable connectivity, human capital, competitiveness and inclusive growth as well in* (AM227) *reinforcing regional and cross-border cooperation*; (AM225, AM226, AM227S) *stresses that any investment must be in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and EU decarbonisation targets*; (AM226)

COMP 31

Paragraph 28

AM229 (Rapporteur), AM230 (Bilík/EPP)

AM228 (ID) falls

28. Reiterates its support for the initiative to establish the Regional Commission for the establishment of facts about war crimes and other gross human rights violations on the territory of the former Yugoslavia (RECOM); ***highlights the importance of the work carried out by the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) (AM229, AM230) and welcomes Kosovo's active participation; reiterates the need to reach out to young people from the northern municipalities and to integrate them in the socio-economic structures of the country;*** (AM229)

COMP 32

Paragraph 29 and 29a (new)

AM157 (Mandl/EPP), AM231 (Rapporteur), AM232 (Picula et al./S&D), AM233 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM234 (Mandl/EPP), AM235 (Rapporteur)

29. Calls for more efforts in dealing with the requests of family members of missing persons, the opening of ***all*** (AM233, AM234) wartime archives, and for information to be revealed about people who are still listed as missing from the 1998-99 Kosovo war; ***urges the implementation of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council's strategy on war crimes that is still severely hampered by political issues, a lack of resources and the lack of international and regional cooperation; underlines the importance of information on grave sites and investigation and adjudication of all war crimes in order to provide justice for victims;*** (AM231) ***calls on Serbia to investigate the remains of three bodies that have been exhumed so far during searches in a mass grave in Kizevak village of Raska municipality near Kosovo border discovered in November 2020 that are believed to be Kosovo Albanians;*** (AM232)

29a (new). Commends Kosovo for the peaceful co-existence of religious communities, and highlights the importance of the continued protection of the cultural heritage and property rights of all religious communities; (AM157) ***encourages Kosovo authorities to use cultural heritage as a means of bringing different communities together and to promote more effectively the multi-ethnic cultural and religious heritage of the country; is concerned by the growing trend towards monolingualism and the lack of understanding of different languages of Kosovo communities, particularly among young people; therefore stresses the need to learn each other's languages, introduce platforms to interact, adapt the education system, and tackle the underrepresentation of non-majority communities in the civil service;*** (AM235)

AM236 (Rapporteur), AM237 (EPP), AM238 (The Left) - VOTE

COMP 33

Paragraph 31, 31 a (new) and 31 b (new)

AM240 (Mandl/EPP), AM241 (Rapporteur), AM242 (Picula et al./S&D), AM243 (Mandl/EPP), AM245 (Rapporteur), AM246 (Paet/Renew)

31. Stresses the need for urgent implementation of active labour market policies, including upskilling, *vocational education* (AM240, AM242) and on-the-job training, in order to increase employment of vulnerable groups; *underlines that the training and education system should be reformed to cope with labour and market needs* (AM241) [and] *calls to include persons belonging to minority groups in the design and implementation of employment measures*; (AM243); *reiterates the importance of creating further opportunities for youth and women*; (AM241)

31 a (new) Expresses serious concern about the massive emigration of highly-skilled workers from Kosovo [and] calls [~~for Kosovo~~] to introduce comprehensive socio-economic measures to address demographic decline; (AM240) *calls on the Commission [and the Western Balkans countries] to develop a regional strategy to address the persistent youth unemployment by tackling the skills mismatch between the education system and the labour market, improving the quality of teaching, and ensuring adequate funding for active labour market measures and vocational training schemes, along with adequate childcare and pre-school education facilities*; (AM243)

31 b (new). Calls for considerable improvement in the area of education and the quality of education (AM246) *urges Kosovo to work towards further progress of school reforms, providing necessary learning materials and the right physical conditions for all students, in particular regarding problems of access to education during the current pandemic*; (AM245)

AM244 (NI), AM247 (EPP), AM248 (NI) - VOTE

COMP 34

Paragraph 32

AM250 (Rapporteur), AM251 (Mandl/EPP)

AM249 (ID) falls

27. *Welcomes the fact that Kosovo will also benefit from the EU Digital Single Market, and* (AM250) *emphasises the need for investing in digitalisation as a way of improving services for citizens*, (AM250) *minimising the digital divide and ensuring equal access to the*

internet, including for the most vulnerable groups and rural areas; *notes the great potential of digitalisation for the development of Kosovo's economy*; (AM251)

AM253 (Rapporteur) - VOTE

COMP 35

Paragraphs 33, 33 a (new), 33 b (new) and 33 c (new) [COVID-19]

AM240 (Mandl/EPP), AM252 (Rapporteur), AM256 (Kyuchyuk/Renew), AM257 (Rapporteur), AM259 (Rapporteur), AM260 (Rapporteur), AM261 (Mandl/EPP)

AM255 (ID) falls

33. Notes that the pandemic is putting the health system under stress; urges Kosovo to strengthen the health sector in order to provide adequate and accessible primary health services for all citizens, in particular through needs-based social benefits for the groups most affected by the COVID-19 crisis; *notes that a high number of health professionals have left Kosovo, which is further worsening the lack of healthcare professionals and has a detrimental impact on the healthcare system*; (AM240, AM257)

33 a (new) Reiterates that the EU has swiftly mobilised immediate support for the Western Balkans to tackle the health emergency resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the socio-economic recovery of the region; (AM259) notes the adoption of over EUR 138 million in assistance for Kosovo through the IPA 2019 and IPA 2020 programmes, out of which EUR 50 million has been re-programmed to tackle the social and economic fallout of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis in the short and medium term; (AM260)

33 b (new) Underlines the importance of European solidarity and calls on the Commission to further support Kosovo and the other Western Balkan states in their efforts to curb the pandemic; (AM261) calls on the Commission and the Council to include Kosovo in the joint EU procurement for vaccination and allocate a sufficient amount of COVID-19 vaccines to the citizens of all Western Balkan countries; (AM256, AM260)

33 c (new) Notes that structural weaknesses have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular due to the delay in adopting the law on economic recovery, and urges Kosovo authorities to implement effective structural reforms to mitigate the impact of pandemic and accelerate the post-crisis economic recovery, including the lack of public health insurance, as well as the issue of division of competences between President and Prime Minister in handling the pandemic, as demonstrated when declaring a state of emergency to enable a country-wide lockdown; (AM252)

AM262 (Rapporteur) - VOTE

COMP 36

Paragraphs 34 and 34a (new)

AM264 (Rapporteur), AM265 (NI)

AM263 (ID) falls

34. Calls on the authorities to ensure alignment with EU standards and policy objectives on climate protection and environment, in line with the commitments made under the Paris Agreement and the strategic objective of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, and asks Kosovo *to work on the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, which mirrors European Green Deal priorities*; (AM264)

34a. Welcomes the outcome of the Western Balkans summit of the 10 November 2020 in Sofia, in the framework of the Berlin process, and continues to support any common initiative to improve integration and good neighbourly relations in the region; welcomes the endorsement of the Declaration on the Green Agenda that aligns with the EU Green Deal and the readiness expressed by the leaders to take measures and align with relevant EU policies setting the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050; (AM265)

COMP 37

Paragraph 35, 35 a (new), 35 b (new) and 35 c (new)

AM267 (Rapporteur), AM268 (Castaldo/NI), AM269 (Mandl/EPP), AM270 (Rapporteur), AM271 (Rapporteur)

AM266 (ID) falls

35. Is deeply concerned that the overwhelming majority of energy in Kosovo derives from coal power, *as well as at the plans to build a new coal power plant*; (AM267) urges Kosovo to increase the sustainability of its energy sector by diversifying its *energy* sources, *removing without delay all non-compliant coal subsidies*, decentralising *energy* (AM267) production and moving towards renewables; *notes that the legal framework needs to be aligned with the EU Directives on large combustion plants and industrial emissions*; (AM269) *calls on Kosovo to conduct environmental impact assessments of international standard and adopt necessary measures to preserve and protect environmentally sensitive areas*; (AM267)

35 a (new) Calls on the Kosovo authorities to stick to their commitment to shutting down and decommissioning Kosovo A power plant; welcomes the willingness of the European

Commission to assist the Kosovo government in this process both financially and technically; (AM268)

35 b (new) *Recalls that prioritising and improving energy efficiency measures, including conversion of the existing coal- and petroleum products-based district heating into a high efficiency cogeneration and renewables-based system is a key factor in reaching climate targets; emphasises the importance of tackling energy poverty;* (AM270)

35 c (new) *Calls on the full implementation of the Energy Community Treaty, including the implementation of the state aid acquis and full opening of the national electricity market, moving towards regional market integration; encourages work on regional connectivity and completion of the Regional Energy Market;* (AM271)

COMP 38

Paragraph 36

AM273 (Rapporteur), AM274 (Castaldo/NI), AM275 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM276 (Mandl/EPP)

AM272 (ID) falls

36. Expresses serious concern about the continuing high rate of premature deaths due to polluted air *stemming from the emissions exceeding the legally established ceilings for large combustion plants* (AM273); urges the Kosovo authorities to tackle air pollution immediately and *to develop a credible plan to* (AM274) *phase out coal in a cost-effective way;* (AM276) *acknowledges the recent revision of the Energy Sector Strategy to address this issue [and]* (AM275) *calls on Kosovo to implement its National Emission Reduction Plan;* (AM273)

COMP 39

Paragraph 37

AM277 (Rapporteur), AM278 (Mandl/EPP)

37. Encourages Kosovo authorities to give more priority to the enforcement of environmental legislation and biodiversity standards *in line with EU acquis* (AM278), *as well as to environmental awareness and education among Kosovo citizens; encourages Kosovo to adopt the Law on Climate Change as soon as possible [and] calls to develop and adopt an integrated National Energy and Climate Plan without further delay;* (AM277)

COMP 40

Paragraph 37a (new)

AM269 (Mandl/EPP), AM287 (Rapporteur),

37a (new) Calls on Kosovo to continue to increase the waste collection coverage, notably with the improvement of separation of waste and recycling, introduce circular economy measures to reduce waste and address the issue of illegal dumpsites, (AM287) and to urgently find the means for disposing of hazardous waste (AM269);

COMP 41

Paragraph 38

AM280 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM281 (Mandl/EPP)

AM279 (ID) falls

38. Calls on Kosovo to implement credible and sustainable public transport and mobility policies for addressing long-standing infrastructure deficiencies, including regular public transport links to North Mitrovica *and all major towns throughout the country* (AM280, AM281);

COMP 42

Paragraph 38 a (new), 38 b (new) [IPA, second part similar to Serbia COMP 34]

AM89 (Pineda et al./The Left), AM282 (Picula et al./S&D), AM283 (Rapporteur)

38 a (new). Welcomes the adoption of the 2020 IPA Annual Action Programme for Kosovo of a total value of EUR 90 million, and insists that IPA funds are used ‘inter alia’ to promote the green agenda by reinforcing environmental protection, contributing to mitigation and increasing resilience to climate change and, accelerating the shift towards a low-carbon economy; (AM283) calls for increased transparency and closer parliamentary scrutiny of the funds allocated to Kosovo and asks the Commission to better monitor the use of EU funds and report any misuse; (AM 89, AM283)

38b (new). Calls for the future Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) to contain both, incentives and conditionality; considers it essential that IPA III supports further strengthening of the fundamental values and good governance and is discontinued in cases of systemic threats to the Union’s interests and values; believes that the principle of the reversibility of the accession process under the renewed methodology should also be clearly reflected in the pre-accession financing; reiterates that the scale of financial assistance should match the goal of Kosovo’s European perspective; (AM282)

AM239 (Rapporteur) VOTE

COMP 43

Paragraph 38 c (new)

AM217 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM284 (Mandl/EPP)

38 c (new). Calls for the creation of new opportunities for high level political and policy dialogue with the Western Balkans countries, through regular EU-Western Balkans summits and intensified ministerial contacts; calls for an active engagement and the appropriate inclusion of the Western Balkans countries in the Conference on the Future of Europe; (AM217, AM284)

AM285 (Rapporteur) - withdrawn

AM286 (Rapporteur) - VOTE [if adopted move after paragraph 37]

COMP 44

Headings 1-6 (new) - Rapporteur

Heading 1 (new) Commitment to enlargement [to be placed before paragraph 1]

Heading 2 (new) Democracy and rule of law [to be placed before paragraph 9]

Heading 3 (new) Respect of fundamental freedoms and human rights [to be placed before paragraph 16]

Heading 4 (new) Reconciliation and good neighbourly relations [to be placed before paragraph 24]

Heading 5 (new) Economy [to be placed before paragraph 30]

Heading 6 (new) Environment, energy and transport [to be placed before paragraph 34]

RECITALS

COMP 45

Recital A, Ba (new), C, Ca (new), E, Fa (new), G, Ha (new), Hb (new), Hc (new), I

AM25 (Zovko/EPP), AM28 (Rapporteur), AM31 (Rapporteur), AM32 (Rapporteur), AM39 (Nistor/EPP), AM42 (Rapporteur), AM43 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM47 (Zovko/EPP), AM49 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM50 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM52 (Mandl/EPP)

AM24 (EPP), AM29 (NI), AM30 (ID), AM38 (ID), AM44 (ID) fall

A. whereas ***Kosovo must be judged, as any country aspiring to become Member State of the EU, on its own merits in terms of fulfilment, implementation and complying with the set of criteria and common values and whereas the quality of and dedication to the necessary reforms determine the timetable and progression of accession;*** (AM25)

Ba. (new) whereas Kosovo's shadow economy is hindering the development of a viable economy for the country overall; (AM28)

C. whereas Kosovo continues to struggle with political instability, in particular since the early legislative elections of 6 October 2019; ***whereas the end of the Kurti government exposed several structural issues, including undue interference of external actors into the work of the government and the Assembly, independence of the Constitutional Court, and lack of clarity on the legality of the vote on the government;*** (AM31)

Ca. (new) whereas there has been a lack of coordination between trans-Atlantic actors recently, and the incoming US administration will provide a new opportunity for better cooperation; (AM32)

E. whereas Kosovo ***must increase*** its efforts in fighting corruption and organised crime ***and must build strong, coherent and independent institutions to resolve these issues;*** (AM39)

Fa. (new) whereas, according to the government of Kosovo, 117 countries have recognised Kosovo's independence, including 22 of the 27 EU Member States; (AM42)

G. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented burden on Kosovo's health, economy, and social protection systems ***and has clearly demonstrated that the EU and the Western Balkans must continue tackling common challenges together;*** (AM43)

Ha. (new) whereas the EU is the biggest assistance and aid provider to Kosovo in mitigating the economic and social consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic; whereas Kosovo has received €5 million of immediate support to the health sector, €63 million of support for the social and economic recovery, €60 million in assistance funds and €100 million of Macro-Financial Assistance; (AM47)

Hb. (new) whereas the EU's engagement with the Western Balkans surpasses that of any other partner and demonstrates a mutual strategic commitment; (AM49)

Hc. (new) whereas the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans will facilitate a long-term recovery following COVID-19 pandemic, supporting the economic development and reforms in the region; (AM50)

I. whereas Kosovo benefits from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II), with a total indicative allocation of EUR 602.1 million for 2014-2020; ***calls for further improving the absorption capacity of Kosovo in this regard;*** (AM52)

AM26 (The Left), AM 27 (ID), AM33 (EPP), AM34 (ID), AM35 (ECR), AM36 (Renew), AM37 (The Left), AM40 (NI), AM41 (ID), AM45 (ID), AM46 (ID), AM48 (The Left), AM51 (The Left), AM53 (ID) - VOTE

CITATIONS

COMP 46

Citations 2, 2a (new), 3a (new), 7, 10a (new), 13a (new), 18a (new), 18b (new)

AM4 (Mandl/EPP), AM5 (Kyuchyuk et al./Renew), AM6 Rapporteur, AM7 (Rapporteur), AM8 (Kovatchev/EPP), AM10 (Rapporteur), AM12 (Rapporteur), AM13 (Rapporteur), AM16 (Rapporteur), AM17 (Zovko/EPP), AM18 (Rapporteur)

Citation 2 having regard to the European Reform Agenda (ERA) for Kosovo, launched in Pristina on 11 November 2016, *as well as the launching of the ERA 2 in October 2020*, (AM4, AM5)

Citation 2a (new) having regard to the framework agreement with Kosovo on participation in Union programmes, in force since 1 August 2017, (AM6)

Citation 3a (new) having regard to the Sofia Declaration of the EU-Western Balkans summit of 17 May 2018 and the Sofia Priority Agenda, (AM7, AM8)

Citation 7 having regard to the reports of the UN Secretary-General on the activities of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), *including the most recent report of 31 March 2020, and the reports on the operations of the Kosovo Forces (KFOR) of 7 February 2018*, (AM10)

Citation 10a (new) having regard to the Council conclusions of 5 June 2020 on enhancing cooperation with Western Balkans partners in the field of migration and security, (AM12)

Citation 13 a (new) having regard to the joint communication of 8 April 2020 of the Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy entitled ‘Communication on the Global EU response to COVID-19’ (JOIN(2020) 11 final), and the Commission communication of 29 April 2020 entitled ‘Support to the Western Balkans in tackling COVID-19 and the post-pandemic recovery’, (AM13)

Citation 18a (new) having regard to the Zagreb Declaration adopted at the EU-Western Balkans Summit that took place via video conference on 6 May 2020, (AM17, AM18)

Citation 18b (new) having regard to the joint declaration of the European Parliament – Western Balkans Speakers’ Summit, convened by the President of the European Parliament with the leadership of the Western Balkan parliaments on 28 January 2020, (AM16)

AM1 (EPP), AM2 (ID), AM3 (ID), AM9 (EPP), AM11 (The Left), AM14 (The Left), AM15 (EPP), AM19 (ID), AM20 (ID), AM21 (ID), AM22 (ID), AM23 (ID) - VOTE