



## Security Council briefing on UNMIK, 30 October 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier  
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you, President, and I thank the SRSZ Ziadeh for her briefing. I also welcome the participation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo to today's meeting.

Malta welcomes the recent positive developments, and the breakthrough agreement reached at the Berlin Process Summit. The unblocking of CEFTA and the lifting of restrictions on imports from Serbia into Kosovo is a positive step towards normalisation of relations and allows both sides to reap the benefits of the CEFTA framework.

The official registration of the property of the Visoki Decani monastery is also worth mentioning and commending.



However, we remain concerned about the latest developments highlighted by the SRSG in her briefing. Actions that risk escalating the situation on the ground must cease. They undermine regional stability and endanger peace and security. Divisive rhetoric should be avoided at all costs. Dialogue and good faith cooperation are essential for resolving differences and ensuring stability.

We call on both sides to look for and work towards compromise solutions that lead to sustained peace and economic and social progress. We support all ongoing efforts to facilitate a peaceful and sustainable solution that addresses the legitimate concerns of all parties involved. However, dialogue is not an end in itself. It is now time for action.

We urge for concrete actions by both sides that ensure de-escalation and safeguard the safety and interests of all residents. We call on parties to respect their obligations stemming from the agreement on the path to normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo and to take actions that address these obligations.



Upholding existing agreements and commitments is crucial for any progress to be achieved. All parties need to prioritise the respect for human rights and the protection of the civilian population in all decisions.

We remain concerned by the lack of progress on the formation of the Association of Serb-Majority Municipalities. This would be instrumental in this normalisation process, and we call for swift progress to be achieved on this in the coming months.

President

A year has passed since the terrorist attacks on the Kosovo police force. Unfortunately, there has been no significant developments on the case. The perpetrators of the September 2023 attacks are still to be brought to justice, and those responsible must be held accountable.



The EU-facilitated dialogue remains the best platform to facilitate dialogue between both sides. We encourage better use of this framework to ensure that decisions taken do not pose unnecessary hardships on communities.

Malta firmly believes that both Kosovo and Serbia's future lies within the EU. We invite both countries to pursue the crucial reforms that lead towards EU integration based on the full participation of all relevant stakeholders from within civil society, including vulnerable and marginalised communities. The full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women in the political sphere and the decision-making process is crucial.

Malta also acknowledges the importance of the role of UNMIK in promoting security and stability and commend the work of the SRSG. We continue to fully support the Mission's presence in Kosovo, and its commitment to the preservation and promotion of human rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of women and youth.



In closing, President, I express our hope that both parties can overcome the current stalemate characterised by ongoing provocative actions, dangerous rhetoric, and unkept promises. We urge both parties to direct all efforts to avoid backsliding on the progress achieved and encourage leaders to uphold their commitments and deliver tangible actions that are crucial for finding a mutually beneficial, long-lasting peaceful solution.

I thank you.