



EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 03 rev. 2011
D(2011)

Dear Mr Kamberi,

Vice President Ashton and Commissioner Füle have asked us to reply to your letter of 10 December 2010 in which you drew their attention to the non-recognition by Serbia of diplomas delivered by the University of Priština. We also took good note of the enclosed appeal co-signed by 44 NGO's active in the areas of citizens' rights, rights of persons belonging to minorities and rights to education.

The European Union is closely monitoring this issue. The latest European Commission's annual report on Serbia highlighted that no sustainable solution has yet been found to the issue of the recognition of diplomas issued by the University of Priština. As it is affecting the respect for the rights of the persons belonging to minorities, we will raise it again with the relevant authorities in the framework of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

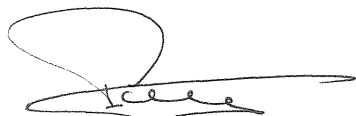
The European Union is willing to facilitate a process of dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo with the aim to improve the lives of the people. We hope that the dialogue will now start quickly and that both parties will engage in it constructively. This is meant to bring solutions to various issues and possibly also the recognition of diplomas. In this respect, we shall encourage both parties to aim at an early solution, in line with the European standards.

We will also continue to monitor the efforts of the Serbian authorities to develop the access to education in one's mother tongue in the regions of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medvedja. We have been informed that the Task Force on higher education has made progress in developing plans for the opening of a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual economics faculty in Bujanovac by October 2011. This would be a substantial contribution to the rights of persons belonging to minorities in South Serbia.

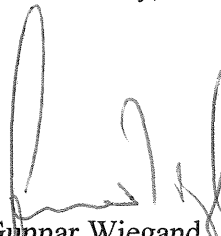
Mr Belgzim KAMBERI,
President of the Council of Human Rights

We would be grateful if you could inform the different organisations that have co-signed your appeal of the particular attention that the European Union gives to education issues, including the recognition by Serbia of diplomas from the University of Priština.

Yours sincerely,



Pierre Mirèl,
Director Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina,
Serbia, Kosovo issues
Directorate-General Enlargement
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Gunnar Wiegand
Director Russia, Eastern Neighbourhood &
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Copy: Vincent Degert, Head of the European Union Delegation in Belgrade