

**KOSOVO/A CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECT**

**KOSOVO/A STANDING TECHNICAL  
WORKING GROUP**

Marc Weller

CONSTITUTIVE SESSION  
PRISHTINA  
16 - 18 MARCH 2001

ECMI Report # 9

April 2001

ECMI Report # 9

European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI)

Director: Marc Weller

ECMI gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (FRESTA/Secretariat for Peace and Stability) and the Stability Pact Fund of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

© Copyright 2001 by the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI)

Published in April 2001 by the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI)

## CONTENTS

I.	Background and Aim of the Kosovo/a Civil Society Project .....	1
II.	The Establishment of the STWG .....	2
III.	Constitutive Session .....	4
	A. Opening Session.....	6
	B. Working Session 1.....	6
	C. Working Session 2.....	7
	D. Working Groups 1 and 2 and Plenary Briefing.....	7
	E. Dialogue with UNMIK.....	7
IV.	Future Work Programme.....	12
V.	Practical Issues.....	14
VI.	Annex .....	17
	A. Programme of the Constitutive Session .....	17
	B. Participants in the STWG.....	19
	C. ECMI Staff, International Experts, UNMIK Officials.....	22
	D. A note about ECMI .....	25

## **I. BACKGROUND AND AIM OF THE KOSOVO/A CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECT**

This project was established to strengthen the development of civil society in Kosovo/a. It seeks to generate a dialogue among the different ethnic and political communities in Kosovo/a and to enhance the sense of local ownership and democratic accountability of the emerging political structures in the territory. In addition, the project hopes to assist in improving the performance of the international implementation agencies and of the emerging local structures of authority in Kosovo/a. The project operates at a number of different levels:

- It has been noted that dialogue among the political parties (even the majority ethnic Albanian parties) in Kosovo/a remains problematic. As Kosovo/a approaches the establishment of an Assembly and other democratic institutions, a need to engender an atmosphere of cross-party cooperation emerges. While the parties have found it possible to participate jointly in *ad hoc* events and in the UNMIK consultative mechanisms, relationships between the major parties remain tense. The Kosovo/a civil society project brings together the political parties and engages them in cooperative dialogue. As opposed to other initiatives, this dialogue is conducted on a permanent basis and in Kosovo/a through the Standing Technical Working Group.
- Inter-ethnic cooperation also remains difficult. While such cooperation exists to an extent within the internationally established UNMIK structures, there is no permanent civil society forum serving this aim. *Ad hoc* initiatives to this end have mainly taken place outside of Kosovo/a. This project capitalizes on the recent determination by the majority parties and representatives of other communities to engage not only in sporadic dialogue but also in actual constructive work. The Standing Technical Working Group establishes an on-going process of inter-ethnic cooperation in which all communities participate.
- There exists no established culture of cooperation between those exercising political authority and civil society. This project introduces NGOs into the

process of political deliberations, again on a permanent basis and in a structured way.

- There exists a need to empower younger political and civil society leaders through training and democratic experience. This project increases the standing of such leaders within their parties and communities and adds to their competence through a training element, and through their participation in the substantive work of the Group.
- The Standing Technical Working Group reviews the performance of UNMIK and other authorities in Kosovo/a and engages in constructive dialogue with those exercising political authority. In this way, the principle of democratic accountability is strengthened. At the same time, civil society involvement in policy discussion strengthens a sense of ownership of the political processes in the territory. The international implementation agencies are given an opportunity to demonstrate their willingness to engage with local actors and to be attentive to their wishes and advice also outside of the top-level engagement through the KTC and similar bodies.

All of these aims are pursued through the work of the Group, through the preparatory work that precedes the formal sessions of the Group, and through the training sessions that will take place at regular intervals between the sessions of the Group. Moreover, it is hoped that a cooperative relationship will develop with UNMIK and with the local actors exercising an increasing degree of authority, leading to an improvement in governance and democratic accountability. There is, of course, no overlap between the STWG and other bodies. The STWG addresses only technical issues. No wider political problems are to be imported into the group—these are already being addressed at other levels and might inhibit consensus.

## **II. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STANDING TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

In support of this project, ECMI established a small office in Kosovo/a in October 2000. Through its local representative and previously existing contacts, ECMI built up a relationship with the majority and minority communities in Kosovo/a. It

introduced the concept of the Standing Technical Working Group to the parties and communities in November 2000, delaying a formal launching of the project until the completion of the local elections.

In December 2000, formal meetings were held with party representatives, at the level of President or Party Vice President. These leaders formally and publicly endorsed the establishment of the STWG and appointed members—a fact which dominated the front pages of the Kosovo/a press at the time. As was requested by ECMI, the party representatives were generally younger party leaders, often the heads of the respective youth leagues who also hold senior positions in the general party structure.

ECMI also conducted a survey of quality NGOs that exercise a general remit and that might be suitable for inclusion in the STWG and engaged in consultations with the leaders of these organizations. In December 2000, ECMI conducted briefings with UNMIK at the level of DSRSG/DDSRSG, to build support for this initiative. (The then SRSRSG had been informed of this project in an informal discussion that took place earlier in 2000.)

A preliminary meeting to which the parties representing all communities were invited was held that month. At that meeting, mainly attended by the majority parties, a statement was agreed in which the participants strongly endorsed the principle of inclusiveness, inviting all communities in Kosovo/a to participate in the Group. A similar consensus was built in relation to the participation of NGOs in the participation of the Group.

Based on this consensus, further efforts were undertaken in January/February to assure participation of all communities in the Group. In February, the date for the constitutive meeting of the Group was fixed for 16 to 18 March and invitations were issued. These invitations were supported by individual visits to potential participants, although some difficulties were encountered in relation to those residing in areas that are not readily accessible.

At the preliminary meeting, a strong view emerged as to the substantive topic to be addressed at the constitutive meeting. This concerned civil registration and the issuing of associated documentation. While it was felt by the facilitators that this problem might not be of equal relevance to all communities, and that it might also not be the topic of choice for the international implementation agencies, it was nevertheless

possible to secure the attendance of a highly representative group of members of the STWG in terms of ethnic appurtenance, gender, geographic representation and age.

ECMI then engaged two senior project consultants and strengthened its local office by deploying one of its research associates to the Prishtina office. A local assistant was engaged to support the team. At ECMI headquarters, a further associate engaged in liaison with international experts who would be able to support the specific deliberations at the first session of the Standing Technical Working Group. Negotiations were also commenced with UNMIK, in an attempt to gain access to a secure venue for the meeting, to obtain escorts for threatened participants and to seek the participation of senior UNMIK representatives in the meeting. Some practical problems emerged in relation to these issues.

In addition to these practical difficulties, the launch of the Standing Technical Working Group could have been affected by the rather dramatic events of March in relation to Southern Serbia and Macedonia. It is a testimony to the commitment of all participants in this process that the constitutive meeting turned out to be a tremendous success, in spite of these distractions.

### **III. CONSTITUTIVE SESSION**

The membership for the Standing Technical Working Group will total around 50, with the expectation that there will be a regular attendance of 40-45, plus ECMI staff and international experts. Out of these, some 35 individuals are permanent members. Half of this permanent contingent is made up of younger representatives from the political parties, the other half consists of NGO representatives.

In addition to the permanent members, up to 10 individuals from Kosovo/a civil society are invited just for one session of the STWG, in view of the particular subject expertise they can bring to bear on the issue under discussion at that session. These will be independent academics, members of specialist NGOs and media representatives.

For the constitutive session, only permanent members were invited. Out of an expected number of 35, there was an attendance of 31. Given the fairly dramatic

nature of events occurring during the week of the session, this is an astonishingly high figure. All communities were represented.

The permanent membership in the Group has been carefully balanced, to ensure adequate representation for all communities in Kosovo/a. A great effort has also been made to ensure that the Group is not only reflective of 'Prishtina society', but that all of Kosovo/a is represented through individuals from Prizren, Gjakova, Lipjan, Istog, Peja, Sharr, Rahovec and Leposavic.

Over 30 per cent of the STWG is made up of women representatives. At the request of the constitutive meeting, a specialist women's NGO has been invited to join the permanent membership. In addition, an NGO representing the disabled community has now been added.

The constitutive session was held over three days (Friday to Sunday). A full programme can be found in the annex to this report. Before the opening session, the ECMI Director held individual consultations with most permanent members of the Group, to explain once more the aims of the venture, to seek advice on how to conduct the meeting and to receive indications of concerns from members. These consultations revealed a very high degree of enthusiasm for this initiative.

At the suggestion of the participants, it was agreed that the ECMI Director would chair the first session. At subsequent meetings, the chair will rotate among members of the STWG, who have now formed a smaller steering committee in preparation of the session in question.

The work programme for the session provided for:

1. An opening session to organize procedure and a work-plan;
2. A first plenary working session to address one substantive issue area;
3. A second plenary working session to address a second substantive issue area;
4. Drafting work in smaller Sub-groups with the assistance of international experts;
5. A session for constructive dialogue with UNMIK;

6. A review session to evaluate the success of the initiative, to plan future work and to assign tasks.

The session was held at the Prishtina Grand Hotel. Security was provided by CIVPOL, although perhaps not sufficiently vigorously. This matter is addressed in greater detail below.

### **A. Opening Session**

At the opening session, held among the permanent members only (i.e., in the absence of the international experts), the Group constituted itself. The members introduced themselves around the table and shared their good wishes for the success of this project. The ECMI Director stated once again the aims of the STWG:

- Creation of a standing forum in Kosovo/a for inter-party cooperation below the level of the existing mechanisms;
- Creation of a standing forum in Kosovo/a to facilitate inter-ethnic cooperation
- Creation of a platform for the exchange among younger political and civil society leaders and for capacity building through the STWG process itself and through training events;
- Participation of NGOs in political dialogue at a technical level;
- Critical but constructive engagement of the international implementation agencies to widen ownership of governmental processes, increase accountability and improve performance of public authorities.

The opening session embraced these aims unanimously and praised the initiative that had been taken in launching the STWG.

### **B. Working Session I**

This plenary session addressed itself to two distinct issues. One related to the problem of Kosovo/a-wide registration. The other concerned the problem of the issuing of certificates of birth, death and marriages and other such documents. The members of

the STWG related their experiences in these matters. The international experts were then invited to share with the group the experiences that had been made in other regions in this respect. On the basis of this discussion, the STWG drew up a list of specific problems and proposals that might be addressed in more concrete terms by a smaller Sub-group.

### **C. Working Session II**

This plenary session considered ID documents, the issuing of travel documents and their recognition, the licencing of drivers in Kosovo/a and the international acceptance of vehicle registration plates. Again, the participants shared their experiences and drew upon the advice available from the international experts. A list of issues to be pursued in a smaller Sub-group was agreed.

### **D. Working Groups 1 and 2 and Plenary Briefing**

The members divided into two roughly even Sub-groups. Each of the two topics addressed in the main Working Sessions was then pursued in a Sub-group. Each Sub-group went through the listing of items for discussion agreed in the plenary, formulating criticisms or suggestions in relation to them.

Rapporteurs then briefed the plenary on the points that would be raised with UNMIK. It was agreed that each Sub-group would appoint three speakers who would reflect the views of the group to UNMIK and conduct the dialogue. After these speakers, there would be an opportunity for individual members to seize the floor. Further preparations for the encounter with UNMIK were then made with the involvement of the international experts.

### **E. Dialogue with UNMIK**

The summary of the debate that follows has not been reviewed by any of the participants and is of an informal and provisional nature. At the concluding review meeting of the Standing Technical Working Group on Sunday, the Group decided that this brief summary should be distributed to add transparency to the proceeding.

At the final session of the day, UNMIK was represented through Gerard Fisher, Deputy to the DSRS for Civil Administration, Jose Luis Herrero, Political Advisor to the SRS, and Stephan Mueller, Advisor on Minority Affairs, Democratization. The Chair welcomed the representatives of UNMIK and invited the three speakers from each of the Sub-groups to take the floor. It was explained that all the speakers represented views reached by consensus in the STWG.

UNMIK opened the debate with a review of consultation procedures that are already part of the international administrative structures.

### *Sub-Group I: Registration Issues*

The first speaker acknowledged the contribution made by the international implementation agencies to the reconstruction of post war Kosovo/a. The debate then turned to individual points considered by the first Sub-group:

#### 1. Completion of the Kosovo/a-wide registration

It was noted that civil registration is an important issue which also has important human rights implications. The process has remained incomplete thus far, in part inasmuch as some groups had boycotted earlier efforts. Their reluctance has now disappeared in many instances. In addition, registration has not sufficiently extended to the diaspora and to displaced populations. Finally, those under 16 years of age have been excluded thus far.

UNMIK acknowledged that the registration process had not been free of deficiencies. It had been driven by the need to act rapidly to make possible municipal elections at an early stage, as had also been demanded by the population in Kosovo/a. Nevertheless, the registration of some 940,000 individuals did not represent a poor record. Those groups which had initially been reluctant to register were now, in the light of recent political events in the region, more forthcoming and an additional 42,000 individuals had already been registered in 2001. The registration of those under 16 would commence in June/July. Diaspora registration is under negotiation at present and there had been some successes in this respect already.

The speaker also raised the issue of the competency of staff and the accuracy of the registration process and pointed out the importance of maintaining a sufficient level

of offices capable of supporting continuing registration. It was proposed that local staff ought to be more involved, especially those with previous experience in such matters. The need to ensure that registration could be performed in the mother tongue of those seeking registration, and the issuing of documents in such languages, using the Latin alphabet, was raised.

In relation to registration of births, marriages and death, the next speaker emphasized the need to have a uniform process throughout Kosovo/a. This should reflect international standards, to ease recognition of such documents abroad and closer links to the EU and its Member States. Parallel processes should be terminated and a uniform process should also be administered to a common standard in enclaves. Local registration offices that existed before could be reopened.

The UNMIK representative agreed with the need for streamlined Kosovo/a wide-registration processes following a uniform procedure. It was, however, difficult, to inhibit the issuing of parallel documentation in some areas. The issue of international recognition could not at present be addressed, as this raised status issues concerning Kosovo/a.

It was also mentioned that other issues of registration need addressing. This includes the periods of work and residence, especially in relation to those entitled to social services, including the children of foreign workers. It was noted by UNMIK that such documents are also of relevance to property issues.

The speaker and the UNMIK representative agreed that registration books that had been moved to Serbia should be returned expeditiously. It was noted that prospects in this regards have improved. Where such books cannot be returned, work would need to commence to reassemble the information that had been lost from other sources. The need to introduce modern technology to this end was emphasized. The UNMIK representative indicated that this latter issue could be introduced at the KTC or other appropriate levels.

The UNMIK representative confirmed that registration in the mother tongue of communities, including the Turkish community, is now being facilitated. The OSCE representative added that as a result of lessons learnt from last year's exercise, all communities are now being closely involved in registration processes and consulted

in relation to them. The problem of IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) in certain areas, including Southern Serbia, would also need to be addressed in this context.

### *Sub-group II: Documents and Their Recognition*

The second Sub-group had concerned itself with two issue areas. These areas were addressed by three speakers nominated by the Sub-group.

#### 2. Identity and Travel Documents and Their Recognition

The importance of identity documents to all communities in Kosovo/a was noted, in terms of human rights, practical issues of mobility, the suppression of crimes, and also in view of recent history. The importance of these issues was fully recognized by UNMIK, as were the failings that had occurred in this respect. An excessive reliance on technology was to blame for some problems. It was noted that low-tech approaches and the involvement of local staff would be more appropriate in future. The need to correct a significant number of documents was recognized. This, UNMIK confirmed, is being facilitated.

It was proposed that registration centres could also be used for the distribution of ID documents and that local volunteers might also be enlisted. UNMIK indicated that 34,000 documents had been distributed thus far, 350,000 had been corrected and were being produced, with another 500,000 to be distributed by June 2001. This would be done through post offices.

There was agreement that this process should be and will be accompanied by a high-profile media campaign to keep the population engaged and informed.

In relation to travel documents, it was emphasized that an expedited process was urgently needed to accommodate medical emergencies, sudden opportunities to study abroad and other events requiring rapid action. UNMIK responded that a practice of issuing temporary travel documents in such cases already exists. However, the real problem relates to the recognition of these documents by other states—a factor beyond UNMIK's control. Difficulties in travelling to Macedonia or Albania for visas were raised and it was suggested that UNMIK might encourage others to follow the example of the Swiss office in Prishtina, which issues visas locally. This would be especially important in relation to the Schengen states.

UNMIK explained that travel documents are no passports and that even the issuing of such a limited document had raised difficult legal issues, also at UN headquarters. Travel documents could only be issued to those without existing passports, although there was no verification process attached to the issuing process. It was confirmed that 22 states, now also including most Schengen states, accept the travel document. However, this is a matter for governments, not UNMIK. UNMIK noted that out of 2,100 travel documents that had been requested, only 700 had actually been collected. This might be connected with the fact that there had been some 15,000 passports extended by FRY authorities in Prishtina.

It was indicated that there is no prospect of adding a further language to the documents that are being issued at this stage.

### 3. Drivers Licences and Vehicle Registration

The issuing of licence plates was widely commended. 155,000 licences had been issued, and there was third party liability insurance attached to all of them. The need to have these plates applied uniformly throughout Kosovo/a was emphasized. The licence plates had been designed with international standards in mind. However, efforts to achieve recognition for them had not, despite the efforts of UNMIK, yielded much success.

It was noted that it would not be possible to suppress traffic offences if the offenders were not, and could not be, in the possession of driving licences. Donor funds exist to assist in the establishment of approved driving schools, the testing of candidates and the issuing of new licences. Moreover, a record of old licences exists in Kosovo/a , greatly facilitating the re-issuing of licences. UNMIK confirmed that a draft regulation on the licencing of driving schools was now being prepared, with a view to adoption as early as the end of March. However, the new licences would only be valid within Kosovo/a, although they are being designed with international standards in mind, should that prove useful in the future.

The meeting closed with an expression of thanks to the representatives of the implementation agencies. It was indicated that it might be useful to revisit these issues after some time, to see whether improvements in some of the issue areas of concern had been made.

#### **IV. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

At the closing session on Sunday, plans were made for the immediate and mid-term future. The issue of publicity was addressed. As had been agreed with participants before the meeting of the STWG, only a short news-briefing had been arranged with *Zeri*. This limited format had been arranged before the session to reassure representatives from certain communities. However, at their request, the STWG expressed itself unanimously in favour of opening up the proceedings, or at least for providing opportunities for wider news coverage.

More room for engagement with UNMIK and for the voicing of constructive criticism was requested. The results of the dialogue with UNMIK should be tracked over time. For example, it might be possible to periodically review progress on the issues raised over a number of sessions. To this end, a short summary of the debate should be published.

A number of suggestions for an increase in the permanent Membership of the STWG were made. These are already reflected in an amended membership list (Annex).

The participants expressed themselves in favour of an on-going work process, also outside the formal sessions. In particular, they requested study materials to be made available in advance of the sessions, to ensure that the debate can be carried out at a high level.

The issue of establishing an electronic network to facilitate on-going contacts was raised. It emerged that most members of the Group have e-mail access and that such a network can be established. For those who lack such access, contacts with funders might help to find solutions, although certain problems are likely to persist, given the state of the telecommunications network in certain areas of Kosovo/a.

The group identified three topics for its immediate future sessions:

- Health services
- Judicial services and human rights
- Economic sustainability, privatisation and equal access to economic opportunities

It was noted, however, that discussion of the latter topic might be premature and that a training phase should precede it. Other topics for future sessions were noted:

- Youth
- Women's issues
- Access to social services
- Ownership questions
- Common standards for municipal administration
- Infrastructure development
- Taxation

With respect to the three issue areas nominated for the next three sessions, preparatory committees were established by the participants. These committees will collaborate with ECMI in selecting materials for distribution, nominate local non-permanent members for individual sessions and structure the debate in advance of a particular session.

Finally, the STWG turned to training. It was noted that it would be most useful, if training could be connected to the issues under discussion by the Group (health, judiciary and human rights, economic issues). In more general terms, the Group indicated a desire to become familiarized with the working of the EU institutions and with democratic practices within the EU and its Member States. There was also a request for ECMI to explore whether funding might be raised to make intensive English-language training available to members of the Group.

The participants expressed their gratitude to ECMI for facilitating this process. The ECMI Director emphasized that this process was not one for which ECMI was principally responsible. Instead, it was the work of the participants that had made it possible and it was their achievement in conducting this dialogue and making actual progress on technical issues that was to be noted. It was agreed to emphasize once again to UNMIK that this was not an ECMI initiative, but instead an initiative of the people of Kosovo/a of all communities, whether or not organized in parties or NGOs. This, it was hoped, might engender an even more consistent and vigorous level of cooperation of UNMIK in this venture.

The Group formally requested that technical support, including meeting space with translation facilities and security, be granted and requested the chair to relate this request to UNMIK. It was also suggested that the principal parties might introduce the request for such support at the KTC or through other channels, should that become necessary.

## V. PRACTICAL ISSUES

As ECMI is not part of the UNMIK structure, it cannot call upon all the resources necessary for this venture, especially where security arrangements are concerned. Nevertheless, such arrangements are necessary, if this project is to be conducted in Kosovo/a itself. Now that it has been demonstrated by the constitutive session that the STWG can actually function in Prishtina, it would be a pity to have to move it elsewhere, thereby indicating that Kosovo/a is not, after all, ready for this kind of civil society dialogue for reasons unconnected with the relations among the participants in the STWG.

A number of issues are now being addressed with UNMIK. One of them is the venue. A previously arranged secure conference facility at the UNMIK building became unavailable for the constitutive session at short notice. The alternative that was proposed by UNMIK was not suitable in terms of size and layout. Hence, it was necessary to move the event to the Grand Hotel Prishtina, despite reservations regarding its suitability. A CIVPOL presence was arranged, although it proved inadequate in assuring certain participants. The ethnic Serb representatives, in particular, are not likely to continue participation, unless the event can be held at a secure UNMIK venue. When UNMIK cancelled that arrangement at short notice, it invoked a competing need for the room. It emerged, however, that UNMIK also had other hesitations in making its facility available to an initiative like this one.

Requests for escorts for some participants had been put into the chain by ECMI in a timely way but difficulties were also encountered in this respect. In the end, the assistance of certain states had to be sought in order to advance appropriate arrangements. The need to make *ad hoc* arrangements at the last minute also did not contribute to a smooth running of the event and added an element of friction.

The OSCE made available translation equipment for the event, but only after a very lengthy debate about this issue and, again, at the last minute, after an intervention by the ECMI Director. It was indicated, however, that the equipment might be withdrawn at any time, should a need for it arise elsewhere. As no other source of such equipment appears to exist in Kosovo/a, this circumstance also caused some difficulties.

The process of assuring suitable UNMIK representation did not prove easy either. The department relevant to the topic was requested at working level to nominate representatives some weeks before the event. Nevertheless, that department felt unable to authorize participation in a timely way. Indeed, the Department Co-head professed surprise in relation to this initiative, despite the fact that ECMI has engaged his Department for a significant period of time. In the end, UNMIK representation was achieved at a higher level.

It is a structural feature of this project that it needs to remain distinct from the UNMIK system. Otherwise, the process of constructively engaging UNMIK through a civil society group like the STWG cannot be conducted in a credible way. Nevertheless, the project supports the objectives of the international implementation agencies and seeks constructive dialogue with them. This was recognized in the initial high level consultations of December of last year, which had revealed strong UN and OSCE support for the project at that level. The difficulties encountered at working level have revealed a need to engage in more continuous briefings at all levels and across the different elements of the international implementation system. This is now being done. In the wake of the tremendous success of the constitutive meeting of the Standing Technical Working Group, a further and broader round of comprehensive briefings is now being undertaken in New York and Prishtina to ensure that the necessary practical support will in future be available to this initiative. Fortunately, a central channel for cooperation is now being established with the involvement of the co-heads of the Democratic Governance and Civil Society Department. This cooperation is much appreciated.



## VI. ANNEX

### A. Programme of the Constitutive Session

#### Day 1 - Friday, 16<sup>th</sup>

TIME	PARTICIPANTS	ACTIVITY	PANELS
Morning	Arrival of the participants	Registration, Brunch	
16.00 - 16.30	PERMANENT MEMBERS	a) The Group constitutes itself and confirms work programme b) Consultation with Party Leaders c) Internal Debate	
		Coffee Break	
17.00 - 19.30	WORKING GROUP (Permanent members, specialist NGOs, independent experts plus international experts)	a) The WG identifies the relevant issues – representations from the floor about difficulties encountered so far in relation to the item under discussion. b) International experts give presentations on external experiences of addressing such difficulties. c) The Group formulates possible responses and questions to be put to the international implementation agencies.	<b>PANEL 1</b> <i>Civil Registration in Kosovo, including: issuing of marriage, death and birth certificates</i>  - General problems connected to registration in the Central Civil Register - Problems connected to defining who is eligible to be "Habitual Residents of Kosovo" - Problems of displaced persons and refugees - Problems involving proof of civil status
		Coffee Break	
20.00		Official Dinner	

**Day 2 - Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup>**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>PANELS</b>
		Breakfast	
10.00 - 12.30	WORKING GROUP (Permanent members, specialist NGOs, independent experts plus international experts)	Activity schedule as for Panel 1 above	<b>PANEL 2</b>  <i>Issuing of UN ID cards, travel documents and drivers licences.</i>  - Problems connected to the slow pace of issuing documents - Problems of dual- identity documentation - Uncertain identities and crime level in Kosovo
12.30 - 14.00		Lunch	
14.00 - 16.30	Sub-WORKING GROUPS (Permanent members, specialist NGOs, independent experts plus international experts)	The STWG splits into two smaller groups to prepare policy options and critical comments for discussion with UNMIK	<b>Sub-groups</b>  <i>Sub-group 1:</i> civil registration and issuance of certificates of births, marriages and deaths  <i>Sub-group 2:</i> ID and travel documents, drivers licences, licence plates and their recognition
		Coffee Break	
17.00 - 17.45	PLENARY (Full membership plus international experts)	The Plenary reassembles to consider reports from the Sub- groups	
17.45 - 19.30	WORKING GROUP plus UNMIK/OSCE Representatives	The WG engages international implementation agencies	
19.30		Dinner	

**DAY 3 - Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup>**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>PANELS</b>
10.00 - 12.30	WORKING GROUP (Permanent members, specialist NGOs, independent experts plus international experts)	a) The Group reflects on the results of the first session and formulates a follow- on programme in relation to the three items under discussion. b) The Group makes arrangements for the next STWG session. c) Planning for future Training sessions and arrangements for visits to European institutions.	
12.30		Lunch Project Review and Evaluation	

**B. Participants in the STWG**

The list that follows has been developed by ECMI since October 2000. The success of the constitutive meeting is undoubtedly attributable to the tremendous effort that has gone into securing attendance by these individuals, and where necessary, to secure the support for this project of the parties that nominated them.

A few additional names have now been added at the suggestion of those who participated in the constitutive meeting and are as yet unconfirmed. A few others committed themselves to participation, but were not able to attend the first event.

For future meetings, the list of permanent members will be supplemented by NGOs or individuals from Kosovo/a who can make a contribution to the specific issue under review at a particular session. There can be up to ten such individuals per session. For example, the next topic to be addressed is the provision of health services in Kosovo/a. Efforts are under way to identify the appropriate local NGOs and practitioners or academics who can assist the STWG in its deliberations on this matter.

Legend: A = attended constitutive meeting, P = permanent

Name	Affiliation	Ethnicity	Status	Comments
Hysni Bajrami	PDK	Alb.	A, P	Lipjan
Mevludin Krasniqi	PDK	Alb.	A, P	
Ruzhdi Hamza	PDK	Alb.	A, P	
Valon Murati	LKÇK	Alb.	A, P	
Izet Sadiku	LDK	Alb.	A, P	
Ilir Salihu	LDK	Alb.	A, P	
Besnik Osmani	LDK	Alb.	A, P	
Fikrete Zajmi Kadriu	PRK	Alb.	A, P	
Bekim Zhubi	PSDK	Alb.		?
Gafurr Podvorica	PLK	Alb.	A, P	
Nazmi Halimi	PSHDK	Alb.	A, P	
Gjylnaze Syla	AAK	Alb.	A, P	
Blerim Tafilaj	AAK	Alb.	A, P	
Vetima Krasniqi	AAK	Alb.	A, P	
Mehmed Ćeman	BSDAK	Bosniak	A, P	Istok
Ruzdija Krijestorac	SDA	Bosniak	P	
Nebahat Doğan	KTHP	Turkish	A, P	
Şerafettin Ömer	TDB	Turkish	A, P	Vice-president
Bislim Hoti	Alb.-Egyptian Council	Egyptian	P	Gjakovë
Sabit Rrahmani	PDASHK	Ashkali	A, P	President
Nexhmedin Sejdiu	TMK	Alb.	A, P	
Gani Toska	SH Rom. K	Roma	A, P	
NN		Gorani		
Nenad Radosavljević, Leposavic	Mayor and director of Radio "Mir (Peace)"	Serb	A, P	
Slavisa Kolašinac	Mayor of Upper Rahovec	Serb	A, P	Rahovec
Jeromonah Nektarije	Monk, Radio "KIM"	Serb		Gracanica
Mirko Jakšić	Head of DSS	Serb		?

Name	Affiliation	Ethnicity	Status	Comments
Rada Trajkovic		Serb	P?	Confirmed to attend, but lost security contingent
Blerim Reka	Institute for Euro-Atlantic Integration	Alb.	P	
Halit Ferizi	HANDIKOS	Alb.	P	nominated by AAK; to be invited for the next meeting
Fisnik Halimi	KACI	Alb.	A, P	
Arbnor Pula	FID	Alb.	A, P	Gjakovë
NN	Women's Alliance of Kosova			no names yet
Valbona Doli, Gjakovë	Shoqata e Gruas (Women's Association)	Alb.		?
Visare Aliu	"Youth Vision", President	Alb.	A, P	Prizren
Artan Venhari	KIDS	Alb.	A, P	
Ibrahim Makolli/Liz Abraham	KMDLNJ	Alb.	A, P	tbd who will be the permanent member
Enver Hasani	Human Rights Center (UP)	Alb.	P	his replacement attended the first meeting
Fatmire Lutolli	Jehona	Alb.	A, P	Fushë Kosovë
Luan Shllaku	KFOS/OSI	Alb.	P	
Suzana Arni	KCSF	Alb.	A, P	
NN		Turkish		nominated by KTHP
Bayram Rogova	SHEFKAT	Turkish	A, P	
Fahredin Tahiri	ZAMAN	Bosniak	A, P	Prizren
Ljubisa Denković, Kamenicë	"Radio Kamenica"	Serbian		late arrival of the invitation/to be contacted again
Dejan Jovanović/Naim Breznica	Radio "K"	Serbian		?

### C. ECMI Staff, International Experts, UNMIK Officials

#### ECMI STAFF

The following members of the ECMI staff were present at the Constitutive Meeting:

Name	Position	Expertise
Marc Weller	ECMI Director	Ten-year involvement in the Kosovo/a issue, legal advisor to a delegation at Rambouillet, author/editor of 3 volumes on Kosovo/a, lecturer in the University of Cambridge
Graham Holliday	ECMI Research Associate and Balkan Projects Coordinator	MA in political science, MPhil in International Relations, University of Cambridge
Leon Malazogu	ECMI Regional Representative, Prishtina	MA in Conflict Resolution, Notre Dame University. Formerly Associate for the Project on Ethnic Relations, lecturer in OSCE training sessions, author of various articles on Kosovo/a
Paolo Quercia	ECMI Visiting Associate	Masters in International Science and Diplomacy, University of Trieste, Formerly Italian Military Centre for Strategic Studies
Besnik Pula	Former ECMI Regional Representative, consultant for the constitutive session	Masters Degree in the Science of Foreign Affairs, Georgetown University, now UNMIK official (attended parts of the session)
Donika Krasniqi	ECMI Local Assistant	

In addition, ECMI employed five local translators for this venture (Albanian, English, Serb). It was agreed that, in future, Turkish translation should also be supplied.

## LIST OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

All of the experts below had confirmed attendance, but two withdrew at very short notice, in fact on the day of intended arrival (CONF/WD). Dr von Hippel and Professor Michels will remain involved in this project as Senior Consultants.

Name	Affiliation, Position or Institution	Status	Area of expertise
Dr. Karin von Hippel	Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Defence Studies, King's College London.	CONF	ECMI Senior Project Consultant, Former member of UNMIK
Prof. Andrew Michels	Visiting Professor in Human Rights and International Organisations, Loyola, Marymount University	CONF	<b>Problems of civil registration, recording of vital statistics, ID card and travel documents issuance</b> Contribution on Panels 1, 2 and 3
Frank Adam	Lawyer, Election Department of Hungarian Ministry of Interior - Central Data Processing, Registration and Election Office	CONF	<b>Problems of civil registration and ID documents issuance</b> Contribution on Panels 1 and 2
De Cataldo Tommaso	Project Officer, International Organization for Migration	CONF/WD	<b>Registration problems of migrants and IDPs without ID or travel documents.</b> Contribution on Panel 1
Bruno Fondi	Italian border Police/ UNMIK border Police Chief of Personnel and Administration	CONF/WD	<b>Travel documents regulations, false documents.</b> Contribution on Panel 3

## IMPLEMENTATION AGENCIES REPRESENTATIVES

After lengthy exchanges with the organizers at working level, UNMIK appeared to put forward the following participants, although no definite confirmation was forthcoming, even a few days before the event. It was indicated (apparently unusually) that legal clearance was required to speak on the topic under review and that such clearance could not be easily obtained.

Name	Agency	Status
Robert Muharremi UNMIK expert on ID cards	UNMIK	Confirmation depending on legal advice
NN	UNMIK	Mr Hans Birchler, UNMIK Department for ID cards, will appoint a second expert.
Mr. Alison Jolly, Department of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Head of Division for freedom of Movement	OSCE	In principal willing to attend, pending final confirmation

The relevant co-head, Mr Schumann kindly agreed to meet the ECMI Director at the conference venue at short notice to address this situation. However, at the last minute a message was delivered, indicating that the meeting would have to take place at the UNMIK building. Given that the first members of the STWG were already arriving, it was not possible to leave the conference facility at that point (this was why the meeting place had been arranged at the conference facility in the first place). Instead, a senior project consultant went over to the UN building. The meeting did not yield any results and none of the above appeared. ECMI then approached UNMIK/OSCE at a different level, and the following very kindly agreed to participate in the final session:

Gerard A. Fischer	UNMIK, Deputy to DSRSG, Civil Administration
Jose Luis Herrero	UNMIK, SRSG Political Advisor
Stephan Mueller	OSCE, Advisor on Minority Affairs, Democratization

Steps have now been taken to ensure a more effective process of assuring UNMIK representation for the upcoming meetings of the STWG, through engagement with the two co-heads of the Administrative JIAS Department for Democratic Governance and Civil Society.

#### **D. A note about ECMI**

The European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) conducts practice-oriented research, provides information and offers advisory services concerning minority-majority relations in Europe. It serves European governments and regional intergovernmental organizations as well as non-dominant groups in the European area. The Centre also supports the academic community, the media and the general public through the timely provision of information and analysis. The early monitoring, study and resolution of ethnic tension and potential conflict in all regions of Europe - East and West - provides one of the major focal points for the activities of the Centre.

The Centre organizes its activities around three principal themes. It is concerned with the evaluation and further development of universal, regional, bilateral and national standards that may assist in consolidating democratic governance on the basis of ethnic diversity and human rights. In this context, the ECMI is also particularly interested in the emerging convergence of standards between EU member states and applicant states.

A second area of interest relates to implementation procedures and mechanisms for such standards and the study of their effectiveness. At times, the ECMI may also be invited to consider implementation issues and majority-minority relations in particular states in cooperation with the government of that state and local groups.

A third area is ECMI's active involvement in constructive conflict management, in projects ranging from the Baltic republics to the Balkan states of South Eastern Europe. In the latter region, ECMI maintains three small regional offices in support of its project activities.

ECMI was founded in 1996 by the governments of Denmark, Germany and Schleswig-Holstein. It is a non-partisan and interdisciplinary institution, which can

draw upon an international core staff of the highest calibre, supplemented by a number of senior non-resident associates, visiting fellows and summer research associates from all over Europe and elsewhere, bringing the total number at any one time to around 20. The Centre also maintains active relations with other institutions involved in conflict resolution and inter-ethnic relations and engages in collaborative projects with them.

While its core funding is provided by its governmental sponsors, the Centre actively pursues project-based funding to support its rapidly expanding activities. ECMI has attracted funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the European Union and the Council of Europe, several European Ministries for Foreign Affairs and a number of other major foundations.

ECMI occupies a historic building in the centre of Flensburg, where it holds meetings and conferences. The building also houses its specialized library and provides the hub for ECMI's ambitious publishing projects and internet information programme. This includes the publication of the internet Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE), the launch of the European Yearbook on Minority Issues, and a dedicated series of Studies, monographs and handbooks covering ECMI's areas of interest. These activities are supported by a dedicated IT and library team and a small publications office.