



Republic of Kosovo
Embassy in The Hague

Kosovo, factor of stability in the region



Nexhmi Rexhepi, Ambassador

Utrecht, 22 February 2011



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FACTS & FIGURES





FACTS & FIGURES

- Kosovo is in the very heart of South Eastern Europe
- Total: 10,887 sq km
- Country border with immediate neighbours:
Albania 112 km, Macedonia 159 km,
Montenegro 79 km, Serbia 352 km
- Population: above 2 million

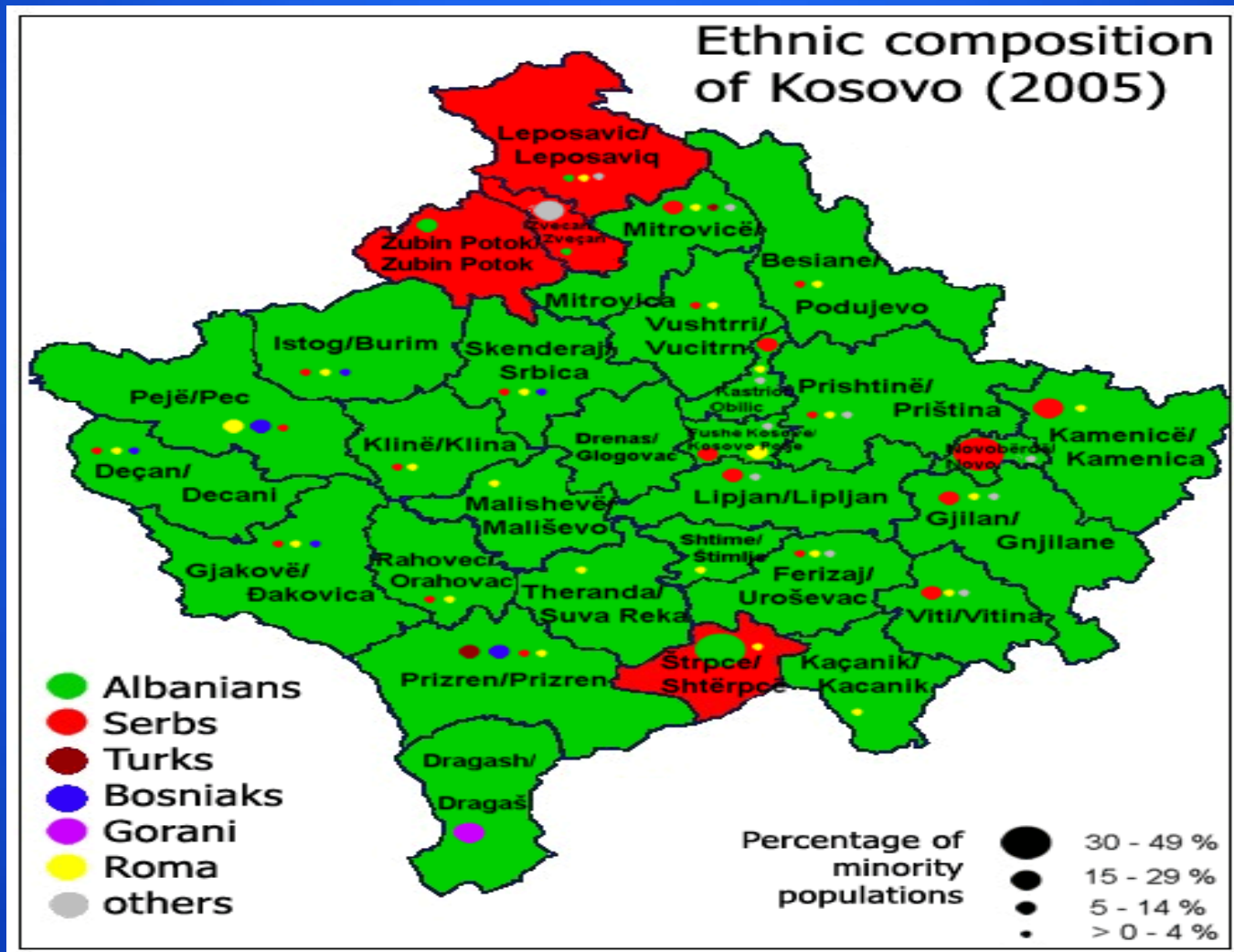


FACTS & FIGURES

- 92% Kosovo Albanians; 8% are from other communities, including (Serbs, Turks, Bosnians, and Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian-RAE)
- Official Languages: Albanian and Serbian
- Turkish, Bosniac and Roma language are legal languages at municipal level



MAP OF ETHNIC COMPOSITION





FACTS & FIGURES

- **Independence Day:** 17 February, 2008
- **Capital:** Prishtina
- **Cities:** Prizren, Mitrovica, Peja, Gjilan, Gjakova
Ferizaj, Kacanik
- **Age structure:** 15-64 years: 70% of population is under 35 years of age, Kosovo has the youngest population in Europe
- **YOUNG EUROPEANS:**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNaZPYCO1E_C



SHORT HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- Constituent part of extensive Roman and Ottoman Empire
- Part of Serbian- Croatian and Slovene kingdom
- Part of SFRY
- Abolishment of federal status and annexation
- Survival
- Revival



KOSOVO UNDER UN ADMINISTRATION

- UNSC Resolution 1244
- Interim period of international administration
- Aim: establishing institutions, legal infrastructure and reviving ruined economy
- Preparing country for future final status



NEGOTIATIONS OVER KOSOVO'S STATUS

Who is he?

- A. Anthony Hopkins
- B. Pieter Feith
- C. Martti Ahtisaari, or
- D. Thomas Buergenthal





NEGOTIATIONS OVER KOSOVO'S STATUS

- November 2005- UN SG Special Envoy **Former Finish President**
- **April 3, 2007 Ahtisaari presented Comprehensive Settlement Proposal-CSP to the UN Security Council**
- **Serbia rejected the Ahtisaari Settlement - Kosovo accepted the Ahtisaari Settlement in full**
- **April – July 2007, Russia rejected in UNSC a number of draft resolutions based on Ahtisaari's plan**
- **UN Sec. General authorized a time-limited round of negotiations between Prishtina and Belgrade led by EU/US/Russian Troika**
- **Troika completed its work on December 2007, NO agreement between the parties on Kosovo's status**



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

- 17 February 2008
- Coordinated not unilateral
- Full endorsement of international obligations
- CSP endorsement
- Invitations for ICO and EULEX to deploy in Kosovo
- Adoption of Constitution

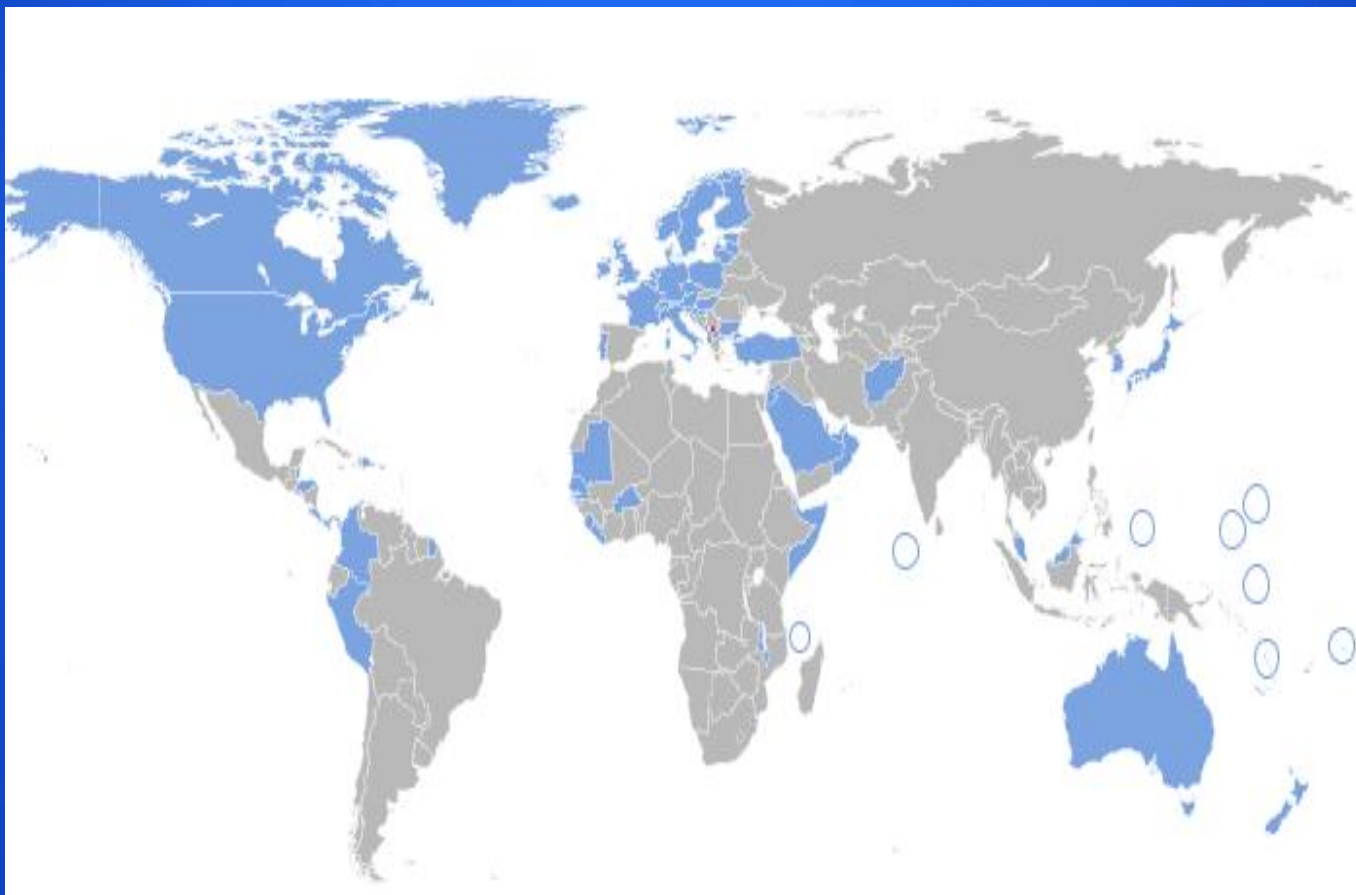


MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE INDEPENDENCE - Kosovo's International Relations

- Countries that have recognized Republic of Kosovo:
- Formally recognized by 75 UN countries
- Formally recognized by 22 EU countries
- Formally recognized by 25 NATO countries
- Formally recognized by 35 OSCE countries
- Formally recognized by 33 CoE countries
- ...and still counting

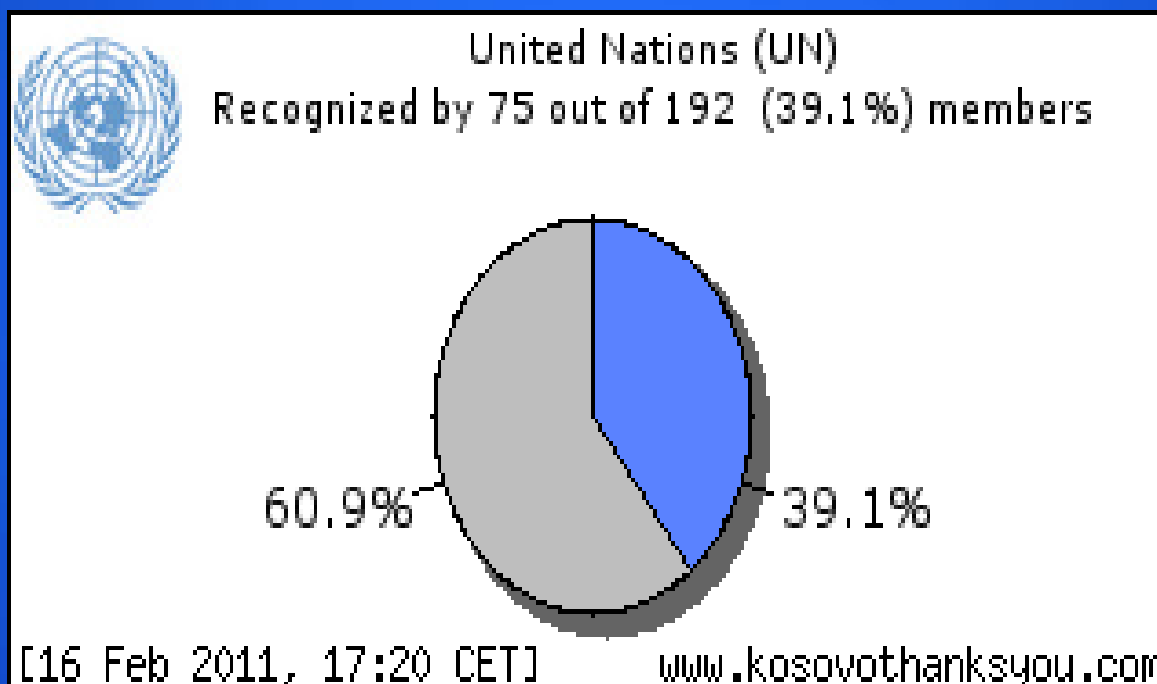


RECOGNITION INFORMATION AND STATISTICS



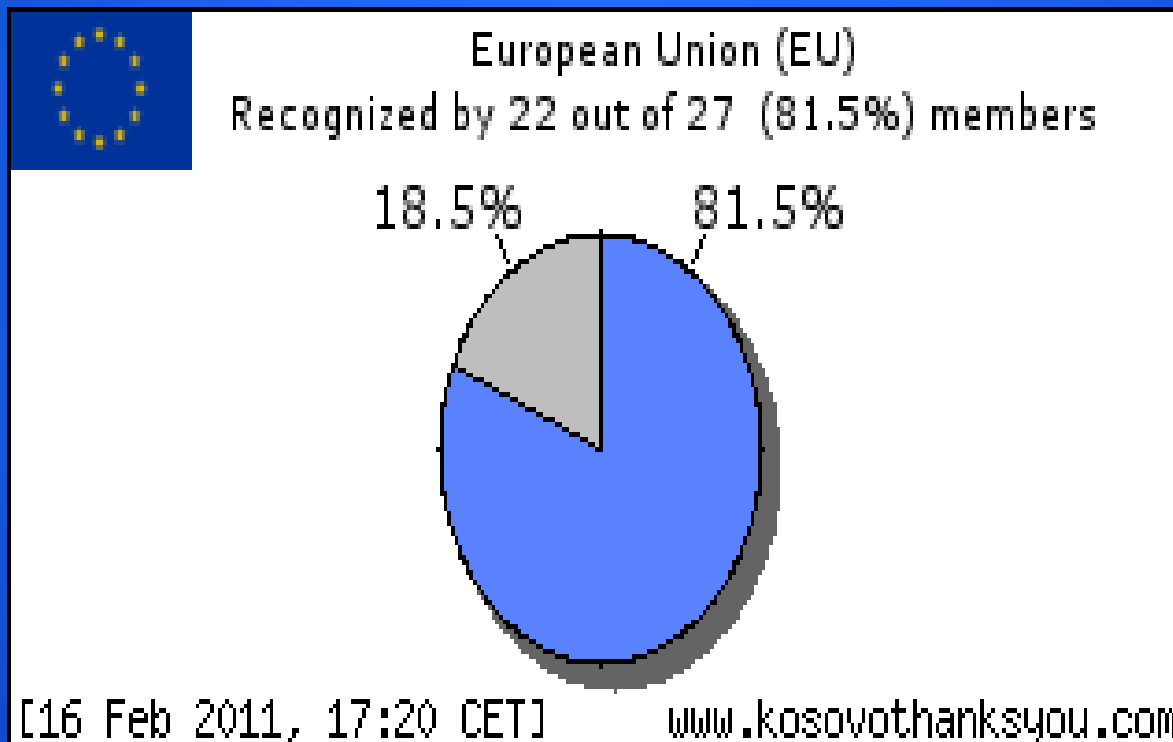


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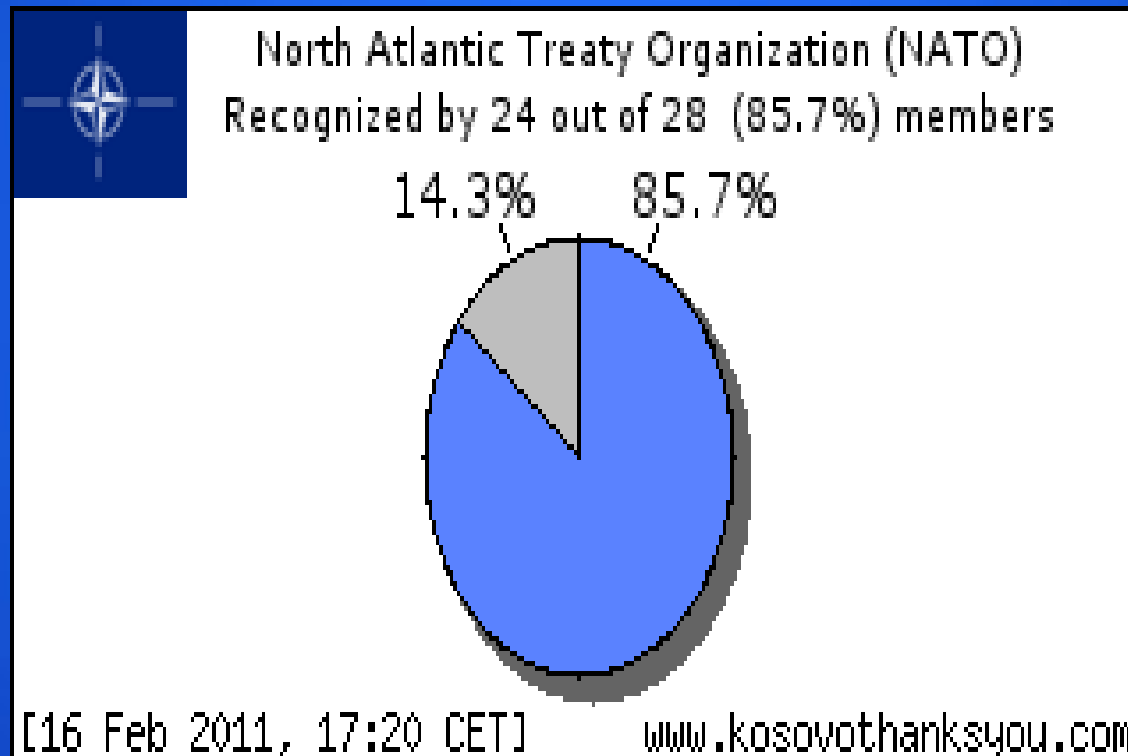


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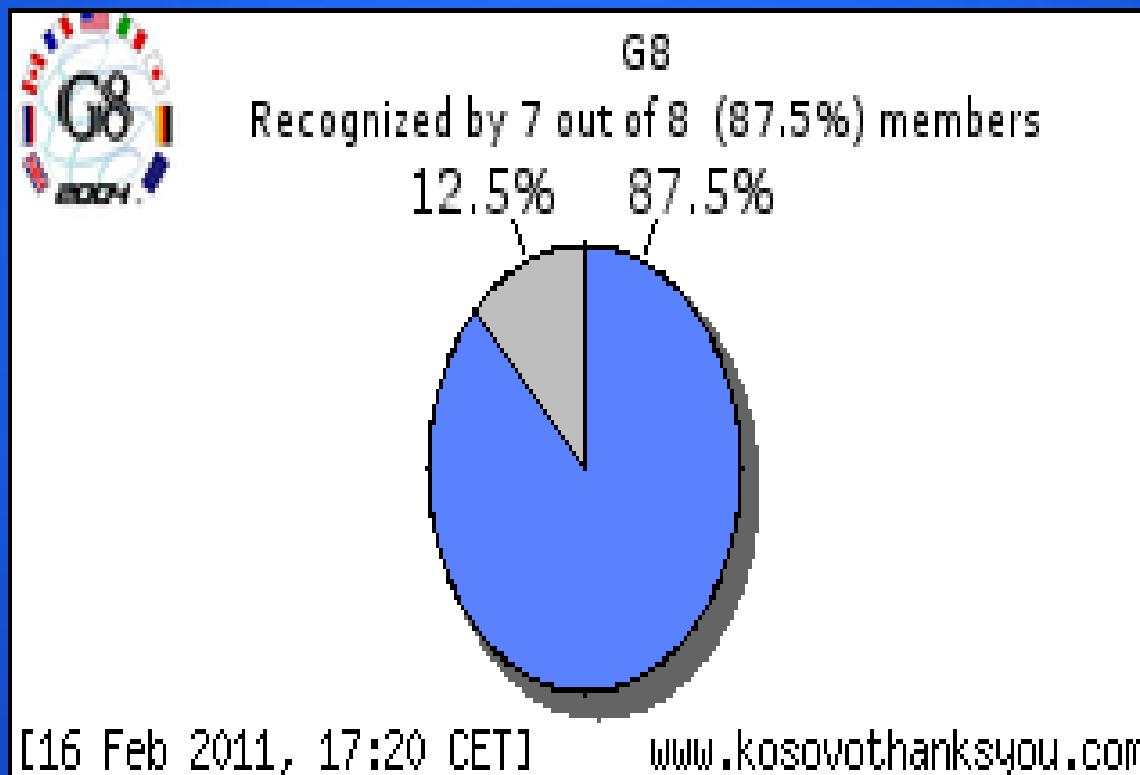


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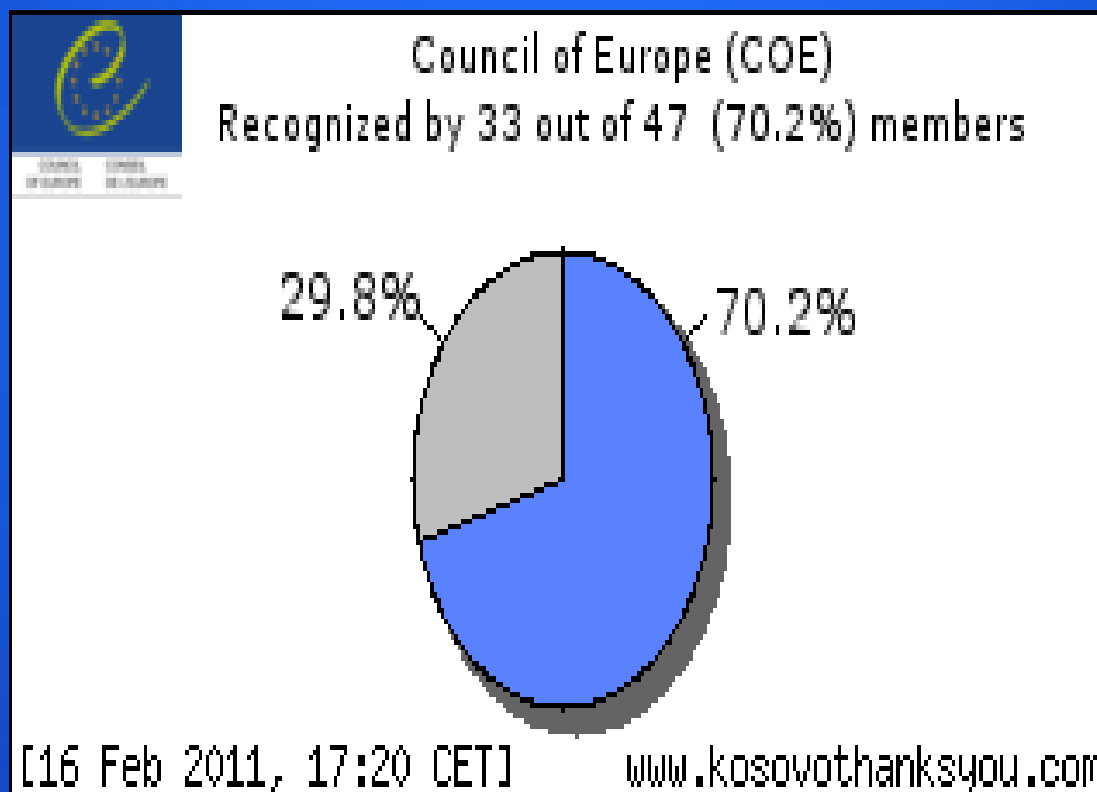


RECOGNITION INFORMATION AND STATISTICS





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RECOGNITION INFORMATION AND STATISTICS





ICJ RULING

- UN RES 63/3 on Serbia's request
- Advisory proceedings
- Advisory Opinion
- No violation of General International Law
- No violation of US SC RES 1244
- No violation of Constitutional Framework
as lex specialis



SOME MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Establishing constitutional order
- Strengthening rule of law and democracy
- Implementing international obligations
- Creating condition for Kosovo Serbs to govern their own local affairs-
Decentralization
- Protection of religious and cultural heritage



ECONOMY

- Shifting from centralized to free market economy
- Privatization process
- Potentials for economic growth:
 - energy
 - agriculture
 - young and educated population
- 2009-2010, 5.5% growth (IMF assessments)



RECONCILIATION

- Imperative for brighter future
- Precondition for EU integration
- Key to regional stability
- Kosovo: ready to forgive, but not forget
- Serbia to behave with responsibility and to apologize for the crimes committed and harms inflicted on Kosovo and its population



REGIONAL COOPERATION

- High priority of Government of Kosovo-GoK
- Excellent cooperation with immediate neighbour's:
 - - Macedonia
 - - Montenegro
 - - Albania
- Hope to make progress with Serbia



EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION

- Ultimate goal of GoK
- Common goal of all Western Balkan countries
- Hope the door will remain open and the hand extended



Thank you for your attention!



Questions & Comments?!





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