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United States Mission to the OSCE

Continuing Efforts by Kosovo Police to Combat Corruption

As delivered by Acting Political Counselor Lane D. Bahl
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 30, 2019

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The United States applauds law enforcement efforts by the Kosovo government to combat corruption and strengthen the rule of law. The Kosovo Police action on May 28 was an effort to do just that. Authorities arrested individuals suspected of involvement in smuggling and organized crime.

The police arrested suspects who belong to multiple ethnic groups. The operation took place in several locations in Kosovo, not only in the north. We also understand that police detained and released a Russian UNMIK officer. The Kosovo Police are investigating the incident.

We encourage all parties to avoid any action that might escalate tensions. All sides should demonstrate professionalism and restraint.

Thank you, Madam Chair.