

Press conference held by Javier Solana and Agim Çeku at the Council of the European Union (Brussels, 20 March 2006)

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[Javier Solana] Now, let me start by saying that, for me, it is a great pleasure to receive for the first time here in Brussels the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Mr Çeku, which I happen to know for some years. And I have to say that, in the few days that he has been in office, I think he has done a very good job. Starting from the speech that he made to the Assembly and which really was a very good speech, a speech we appreciated very much — not only for the content, but also for the manner it was expressed. I have very much hope that he will be a very good Prime Minister in a moment in which what we need is very serious people in places of responsibility. And I have the trust that the Prime Minister Çeku is going to be one of them. As you can imagine, today, we have spoken for the first time with the Prime Minister on the process that has started not long ago and that is moving, is moving at a pace that it should be at more or less at that one. We have to concentrate still very much on the question of standards. I have talked with the Prime Minister at length on the question of standards, minorities, etc. As you know, there was a meeting on Friday in Vienna on standards. It was a good meeting, and, although still the positions may be separated, the atmosphere was very good, and I hope that the next meeting that is already fixed a date, it will be a continuation of that. But I insisted very much that, for the Prime Minister, it is fundamental to really do, not only talk, but do things which are relevant on the matter of standards.

I am willing to work with him from the European Union. The European Union, as you know, as time goes by, will be taking more responsibilities also in Kosovo. We are preparing, doing the preparatory work. We would like to do that in cooperation with the Prime Minister. And I hope very much that we will have the same good relations that we have started having and I have personally with him for some years.

[Agim Çeku] As you know, we are a European country, we are a European nation, with very clear European Union and NATO membership aspiration. So we are very happy that the European Union has opened the European perspective to Kosovo. And we do have an agenda for European integration. And this agenda for European integration, we keep it as an agenda for the development of Kosovo. So I am so pleased that I am today here meeting Mr Solana, and I have assured him that, in Kosovo, we do not have any other agenda than a European perspective and to build, to develop Kosovo in accordance with European standards and European values, and, as soon as possible, to be part of the European Union. Within that, there is a lot to do in Kosovo. There is much to do in all areas, especially in minority integration, on economy, on energy, on education, in all other areas. I have informed Mr Solana about our plans, our priorities, our agenda of our government. And that will be mostly to improve the government, to bring it very close to the citizens, to increase the trust and confidence of citizens into government, and by producing results, producing arguments, helping fulfil the standards, helping our negotiating team to accomplish as soon as possible status for us.