

Kosovar Cabinet

Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Kosovar Crisis Cabinet at BUSUN 2009! I hope that you are looking forward to begin preparing for the conference as much as I am so that we can have a productive and exciting cabinet meeting. I'll begin by introducing myself.

My name is Courtney Hall, and I will be serving as the cabinet's chair, Prime Minister Hashim Thaqi. I am a junior majoring in Public Policy and Mathematics here at Brown. Originally, I am from Longmeadow, MA where I participated in my high school's Model UN. In addition to BUSUN, I am also involved in Brown's Mock Trial team and am an intern at the Rhode Island Statehouse. If you have any questions about our committee, your background papers, or the conference in general, please don't hesitate to email me at Courtney_Hall@brown.edu and I would be happy to help you out.

This background guide contains information about the Kosovar Cabinet as well as two topics pertaining to the Crisis at BUSUN. Read this guide closely and consider the topics as they apply to the Minister that you are representing. It will act as a starting point for your research, and the bibliographies throughout the guide will give some sources to use for your papers, although feel free to find your own sources as well.

Best of luck! I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Courtney Hall
Kosovar Cabinet Chair
Kosovo.cab@busun.net

Committee History

The Kosovar Cabinet functions as the executive authority of the Kosovar government. It is headed by the prime minister, who is elected by the Assembly of the Republic. The remaining members of the cabinet consist of two deputy prime ministers and seventeen ministers. Ministers are nominated by the Prime Minister and elected by the Assembly of the Republic. Currently the Ministers are primarily members of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (Prime Minister Thaqi's party) and the Democratic League of Kosovo (President Sejdiu's Party). A few cabinet members also come from the minority parties of Kosovo, the Turkish Democratic Party of Kosovo and the Serbian Liberal Party.

Members of Cabinet

- Hashim Thaqi, Prime Minister
- Hajredin Kuci – Deputy Prime Minister
- Rame Manaj – Deputy Prime Minister
- Skender Hyseni – Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Fehmi Mujota – Minister of Security Force
- Fatmir Limaj – Minister of Transport and Communication
- Ahmet Shala – Minister of Economy and Finances
- Arsim Bajrami – Minister of Public Services
- Enver Hoxhaj – Minister of Education, Science, and Technology
- Justina Pula-Shiroka – Minister of Energy and Mining
- Nekibe Kelmendi – Minister of Justice
- Lutfi Zharku – Minister of Trade and Industry
- Alush Gashi – Minister of Health
- Zenun Pajaziti – Minister of Internal Affairs
- Sasa Rasic – Minister of Community and Return
- Idriz Vehapi – Minister of Agriculture
- Mahir Yagcilar – Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning
- Sadri Ferati – Minister of Local Governance
- Valton Beqiri – Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport
- Nenad Rasic – Minister of Labor and Social Welfare

Committee Format and Rules of Debate

Committee sessions will generally proceed in informal debate (or “moderated caucus”), with speaking times proposed either by the President or by individual advisors. Generally, members of the cabinet are discouraged from conversing amongst themselves while other members are speaking, and should instead write notes to one another or make a motion for an unmoderated caucus. The President reserves the right to interrupt debate to introduce guest speakers or news.

As they are unwieldy for such a small committee and too time-intensive for use during a crisis, proposals made in UN Resolution form will be discouraged. In their place, members are encouraged to make use of different forms which are more appropriate for this committee. These forms include press releases, party communiqués, and action orders. Press releases are used for public communications, either domestically or internationally. Party communiqués are used for classified internal communication to other cabinets. Action orders are used for internal communication, such as to the military. All proposals must first be submitted to the President in written form. After reviewing the proposed document, the President will then call upon the author to present the proposal to the committee.

Decisions of the Kosovar Cabinet are expected to be made by consensus, so members are encouraged to develop

proposals on which the entire cabinet (and not simply one faction) can agree and support as national policy of the Republic of Kosovo. Should the President determine that there is an extreme disagreement over a proposal, it shall be the President's right to either advise members to disregard the proposal entirely or to call the proposal to a majority-rules vote. If a vote is called, all 7 members of the cabinet may vote or abstain and at least four members must vote in favor of the proposal.

Each member of this cabinet is obligated to uphold the principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo.

Topics for Debate:

The agenda for this meeting of the Presidential Cabinet consists of two topics that are important to the development of Kosovo's foreign policy. As a representative of a newly independent nation, you must keep in mind that many nations worldwide will be observing the decisions made by the cabinet with great interest. Also, as you research these topics, remember that they do not exist in isolation; alliances or aggressive actions that you make toward one nation will impact how others perceive you.

I recommend that you read these topic briefs carefully and use your local library or the Internet to learn about specific issues that interest you. You do not need to be an expert on all aspects of all topics, but your research should still help you to develop opinions and recommendations on specific points. When writing your position papers (which I highly encourage you to do), please refrain from writing broad overviews of topics; instead, use the discussion questions at the end of the summaries to develop specific, focused policy recommendations that will be helpful for the committee as a whole.

Topic 1: Kosovar Independence

Background

On February 17, 2008 the Assembly of Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia to the world. Since then 60 UN member states and the Republic of China (Taiwan) have recognized Kosovo's sovereignty. However, many other states, including Russia and China, have not recognized Kosovo's independence. Serbia has gone so far as to proclaim its declaration of independence illegal. On the day that sovereignty was declared, both celebrations and riots broke out around the world. Even now, a year and half later, Kosovo must struggle to keep itself free. The journey to sovereignty has been a laborious one. In

1912, Serbia regained control of Kosovo in the Balkan Wars. During both world wars, Serbia lost most of the Kosovar territory to the Albanians, who were at that time part of Italy. However, Serbia was able to recapture the land at the end of each of the conflicts. In 1943, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) was established. The Yugoslav state, which was comprised of Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Slovenia, dissolved in 1992. While Serbia was a member of SFRY, Kosovo was initially considered an autonomous region of Serbia, but with the rise of Albanian nationalism within the region, it eventually gained the designation of province.

Throughout the 1980's, with the rise of Slobodan Milosevic and Serbian nationalism, conflicts became increasingly violent over Kosovo's autonomy. Albania wanted to help Kosovo forcefully secede from Serbia, but Milosevic successfully constrained Kosovar power. By 1989, the autonomy that Kosovo had gained was stripped away. Although at that time Albanians made up 90% of Kosovo's population, they held little to no governmental power. This exclusion from the political process eventually led to Kosovo's first official declaration of independence in September 1990. This declaration was only recognized by Albania.

In the mid-1990's, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) began assaults on Serbian security forces. The conflict became so tense that the region hinged on the brink of war in 1998. NATO was forced to intervene with peace talks and the eventual bombing of Serbia and Montenegro (as well as some targets within Kosovo). In the end, Milosevic allowed UN peacekeepers into Kosovo to govern the state under Resolution 1244 of the UN Security Council.

Unrest in Kosovo continued through the 2000s. In 2007, Martti Ahtisaari, a UN Special Envoy, created a plan to more clearly define Kosovo's sovereignty status using a "supervised independence" for the province. While the United States and the EU supported the plan, it was opposed by Serbia and Russia and ultimately failed to bring resolution to Kosovo's status.

Maintaining Independence:

Maintaining Kosovar independence has proven to be a difficult task. However, with help from the United States and Europe, Kosovo looks to become widely accepted as sovereign. Russia and Serbia are going to remain its biggest threats to independence: Russia, Serbia's closest ally, holds veto power on the UN Security Council, which prevents the UN from accepting Kosovo as one of its members.

Questions To Consider

1. What are the best practices to maintain Kosovar independence?
2. How should Kosovo handle growing tensions with Russia and Serbia? Is it willing to compromise?
3. Should we compromise with Russia to gain entry into the UN?

Topic 2: Threats from Serbia and RussiaBackground

Now that Kosovo is independent, it must determine the best way to reconcile with Serbia and Russia. Historically, Serbia has been adamantly against Kosovo's autonomy. When Kosovo made its declaration of independence, Serbia immediately declared it illegal according to the Constitution of Serbia, which calls Kosovo an "integral" part of Serbia with "substantial autonomy".

As recently as June 17, 2009 the Serbian Foreign Minister, Vuk Jeremic, urged the UN Security Council on Kosovo to remain in control in Kosovo and to not encourage any more countries to formally recognize Kosovo as sovereign. Currently the International Court of Justice is considering whether or not Kosovo's declaration of independent should be considered legal under International Law. Jeremic reminded the Security Council that it is imperative for the Court to be able to conduct its hearings without interference from any side.

Meanwhile, in the rest of Serbia, protests continue against Kosovo's declared sovereignty. One of the main concerns of Serbians is the fate of the many people of Serbian descent who lived in the Kosovar province before independence. Jeremic and others are petitioning for them to be allowed back into the country – and slowly they are.

Russia, Serbia's closest ally, opposes Kosovo's independence for its own reasons as well. Russia fears that if it recognizes Kosovo's sovereignty, it will create a precedent for other small, autonomous provinces to separate from their mother country. Because of Russia's vast area, and its acquisition of many Communist Bloc nations during the cold war, Russian officials fear that one or more of Russia's 20 autonomous ethnic groups will try to break away. Russia warns that independence declarations could spring up all over the world including Quebec, Spain's Basque region, the Kurdish zone in Iraq, and Taiwan. Kosovo's independence could spark a chain reaction.

Questions To Consider

1. How can Kosovo prove to Russia that it deserves to be independent?
2. What is the best way to sustain Kosovar independence during conflict with Serbia?
3. What should be done about Serbs in Kosovo?

Helpful Resources

Feel free to use these resources as a jumping off point for your position papers. However, I first advise you to look at the biography of the cabinet member who you are assigned. Consider their past positions, upbringing, education, military experience, and foreign travel to construct a personality and opinions for them. The more you know about your Minister, the more fun you will have in November and the more realistic our simulation will be. As you form your own opinions about our topics, try to envision how your minister would answer the same questions and integrate your opinions into your character.

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- Proclamation of Constitution of the Federative People's Republic of Yugoslavia, 31. 1. 1946.
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