

Kosovo's Culture, Youth and Sport

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NEWSLETTER

Kosovo and Italy empowering their cooperation in the field of culture and cultural heritage

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Kosovo in the 46th edition of the "Montreux Jazz Festival"



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Cooperation between the two countries in cultural and heritage field, respectively its realization through an inter-institutional agreement was the main subject of the meeting between the two ministers. Minister Krasniqi initially on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kosova thanked the state of Italy, for the support given and the support that still provides to Kosova in many spheres. With special emphasis he mentioned cultural heritage, a segment where Italy has given valuable contribution in the function of conservation and restoration of monuments, their preservation and promotion, assistance on building capacities and drafting legal infrastructure conform international heritage convention. "Italy has been and still is one of the best models for Kosova with their engagements for preservation and promotion of cultural diversity", said Minister Krasniqi. He was very happy that the cooperation between Kosova and Italy has continuously been increased in many spheres, especially in cultural and inheritance sphere, and in this case he emphasized the need to deepen cooperation in these two fields. The Minister expressed his commitment to concretise cooperation steps with an inter-institutional agreement. One of

the most important items for cooperation, the Minister says is cinematography, where it were discussed different ways of cooperation leading towards realization of joint activities in this field.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Mr. Memli Krasniqi informed his counterpart on the achievements and challenges that Kosova faces in culture and heritage.

He also mentioned that artists currently have the support and bigger space to show their ideas and composition. The Minister said that the Theatre and Kosova Film have managed to have better promotion worldwide; he also added that Kosova has a considerable number of film festivals where participate creators and performers known worldwide.

Minister added that there are challenges and in this case he mentioned the need that Europe shall open the doors for artists from Kosova. Speaking about cultural heritage, Minister Krasniqi said that it is priority for Kosova and also added that there are efforts made to have a bigger progress. He pointed out millions of investments carried out by the state in cooperation with different donors amongst which is the Italian Government for restoration of monuments, promotion of heritage and drafting a good legal basis on this field. He said that Kosova has a very rich heritage and its diversity is of a unique value. "The message we have continuously conveyed to all citizens is

that the cultural heritage shall be seen as a common point among them, as common value, furthermore it is as one of our strong values for which all of us must be proud of", added the Minister. In this regard, Minister said that international mechanisms for preservation and promotion of world heritage, as UNESCO shall break the isolation and establish official communication with Kosova. In this case he requested from Mr. Ornaghi that Italy shall assist Kosova in this direction and create possibilities that Kosova be equal part of regional and European initiatives.

Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities of Italy Mr. Lorenzo Ornaghi welcomed Minister Krasniqi and estimated that Kosova made a huge progress on building institutions and a democratic society. He congratulated Minister Krasniqi for achievements in heritage and culture, stating that Italy has been and will be a great supporter in this regard. He considered important to concretise cooperation between the two countries in culture and heritage. Minister Ornaghi added that Italy will always be ready to provide better expertise on management of these two fields, expressing readiness that the Ministry he leads will support MCYS in capacity building of administration and increasing efficiency and professional work.

Both ministers agreed to continue frequent communication with the purpose to deepen and concretise the cooperation.

Kosovo in the 46th edition of the "Montreux Jazz Festival"

MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL

JUNE 29 - JULY 14 • 2012

The Republic of Kosovo for the first time will have its evening in the 46th edition of the prestigious Jazz Festival "Montreux Jazz Festival" in Switzerland. After a hard work of MCYS and Kosova Embassy in Switzerland reached an agreement with the organization "Montreux Jazz 2 Foundation for Creative and Cultural Exchange" has been assured that this year Kosovo will be the state to have its own evening in this festival under the performance nights "Eastern Delights" held in the Festival for many years. With a special pavilion will also be presented the culture and heritage of Kosova. Kosovo will be represented in this prestigious event by the following bands, namely ODA, Jericho and Etno Classic, and Kosova evening called "Kosova Rocks" will be held on July 4th.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Mr. Memli Krasniqi estimated that participation of Kosovo in this event contains a very important moment to promote art and artists of Kosova.

"Kosova presentation in this festival marks an important step to promote our

values and undoubtedly create bigger possibilities for cooperation of our artists with their colleagues from Europe and worldwide. This is one of the most significant steps; for the first time it happened last year, reminding our representation in Berlinale, Cannes as well as Venecia Bienale which are expected to take place during this year. Undoubtedly we are becoming a significant part of big European and world event as in music, films and other fields.

The first edition of the "Montreux Jazz Festival" was held in 1967 and since then this event has been on of the most

important musical events, where have performed artists of the world for instance Ray Charles, Miles Davis, Eric Clapton, BB King, Deep Purple, Santana, Sting and many others.

The number of visitors and sold tickets at festival evenings has been increased yearly up to over 200 thousand visitors. Claude Nobs is considered as the founder of the festival.

In this edition there will also be present big world names as Tony Bennet, Bob Dylan, Alanis Morissette, Anastacia, Pat Metheny, Jessie Jay etc.



Our real image



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, z.Memli Krasniqi received in separate meetings Kosovar footballers who play in the major European teams and the world. He has met Shefki Kuqi, who now plays for Oldham Athletic, while previously played in Newcastle, Blackburn and other Premiere League teams. Minister Krasniqi also met, Besart Berisha who plays for the Brisbane Roa, in the superior league of Australia. Berisha was elected the best player and goal scorer of Australia in 2012. He has also met Armend Dallku, of Vorlska and Debatik Curri of Gencerbilgiri. Both of them are members of the Albanian National team. Guest of Minister Krasniqi was the Fiorentina midfielder, Valon Behrami who is also a member of the Swiss national team. Members of the Finnish national, brothers Perparim and Mehmet Hetemaj met with Minister Krasniqi, too. Perparim team currently plays for Chievo, while Mehmet for him Albinolefe. The Minister Krasniqi declared that these players and many other successful kosovar athletes are the real image of Kosovo and that they are the best ambassadors to Kosovo.

Millions of Euros investments in Mitrovica with the aim of bringing youth together



Mitrovica town will have the greatest sports centre in the country. The project worth twenty million Euros, which foresees the construction of a multi functional centre with many sports grounds, a commercial centre and a full renovation of sports gym "Minatori", has begun being implemented officially. Prime Minister of Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Hashim Thaçi, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Mr. Memli Krasniqi, Chief of Operations in the Office of European Committee Mr. Christof Stock and the head of Mitrovica Municipality Mr. Avni Kastrati have laid the cornerstone of the respective project. MCYS has allocated eight million Euros for the project, while the remaining part has been financed by the European Committee.

Prime Minister of Kosovo Mr. Hashim Thaçi, in his speech, assessed the project to being as very significant event of sport and sports people of Kosovo. He said that except creating a spirit of a dialog and affection among people of this town, without any distinction, these projects will also assist in local economic development and job creation. He pointed out that Mitrovica will always be a focus of the Government. "The Government of Republic of Kosovo has set itself the main objective to the economic

development of the country, and such projects are very significant and they contribute toward the overall Kosovo economic development as well. Such investments will remain a priority of the Government of Republic of Kosovo in order to establish as good as possible conditions and favours for thousands talents of Mitrovica and overall Kosovo", said the prime minister, while thanking as well the European Committee for the great support that is being given to Kosovo.

In his speech, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Mr. Memli Krasniqi emphasised that these projects prove a special attention that the Institutions of Kosovo have toward the town of Mitrovica.

"Our presence here today, where we are beginning the construction of a multi functional centre that is many millions worth investment I believe it is the best prove of our commitment to invest a lot in this town, in order to joint youth without any exception, to make their life more attractive and to expand the possibilities for all on expressing their talent and their passion. I believe that people of this town gradually, this side of the river and across the river will set aside prejudices for each other, with the aim of looking to a better future for all", said minister in his speech, while

thanking the European Committee for the continuous readiness to support projects that provide a better life for the citizens.

Minister added that this project will not be the only sport investment for the town of Mitrovica. The renovation of Olympic stadium and construction of a subsidiary stadium according to the highest standards, are the next following projects, emphasised minister Krasniqi. "I would like to assure you that this support is not the first one, and it will not be the last one as well. Undoubtedly, we will provide an overall support to the field of sport, cultural heritage, culture and youth activities". Meanwhile, the chief of operations in the Office of European Committee in Kosovo, Mr. Christof Stock, emphasised that such a project will serve the spirit of collaboration and for a better life, especially for youth. He said that in this way, except spaces for cultural and sports activities, it is contributed also to the new job creation. Stock added that EC will always be ready to support projects in the field of sport and culture. The head of Mitrovica Municipality Mr. Avni Kastrati said that after two years citizens of Mitrovica will also have modern spaces available for sports activities, according to the European standards.

Kosovo for the first time in the Venice Biennale



The Architect Mr. Perparim Rama is selected in the position of a curator for representing the Republic of Kosovo in the Architecture Biennale of Venetia in Italy. The appointed board in February by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Mr. Memli Krasniqi, has selected Mr. Rama from three proposed candidates. After additional clarifications and consultations the board comes to a conclusion that the concept idea of Mr. Perparim Rama is the best and worthy one in order to represent the Republic of Kosovo as good as possible, because this is the most significant cultural event in the world and the Republic of Kosovo is a participant of the event for the first time. The Biennale of Venetia will last for four months and the opening will take place in August. This year, the topic of the Architecture Biennale is "The Common Land".

Kosovo sports facts in the world's greatest Convention of sport "Sport Accord"



Kosovo presented her sports fact in world's greatest Convention of sport "Sport Accord", that was held in Quebec. In the pavilion of Kosovo, are being presented sports facts especially regarding the Olympic hope, respectively judo sportswoman Miss Majlinda Kelmendi, who, unfortunately, was not allowed to represent Kosovo flag in the Olympiad "London 2012" on Thursday, or at least to be represented as an independent sportswoman from Kosovo but under the flag of the International Olympic Committee. Minister Krasniqi and the head of Kosovo Olympic Committee Mr. Hasani had meetings with high representatives and officials of world's sports institutions, including as well vice heads and members of the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee, heads of International Federations, institutional representatives of different countries, investment sports companies etc. Minister Krasniqi, in his meetings has presented a sports history in Kosovo and he emphasised the fact of Kosovo being isolated by the international sports community for twenty years. He pointed out that the youngest country in Europe has enough talents, who proved themselves in great world teams, and in different sports. In every meeting he had, he requested the recognition of Kosovo federations with full rights by respective international federations. He repeated in every meeting the requirement to remove the sports isolation, while pointing out also that in this way many young sportsmen are denied the rights to be equal with all other sportsmen of the world. He also emphasised Kosovo's great will to give its own contributions in the development and mass of sport, by evoking the spirit of a fair game.

The Book Fair in Prishtina



The Book Fair in Prishtina is no doubt one of the most significant events in Kosovo, and it is an important place where intellectuals and all other people promote the idea and the need on developing and affirming genuine values, as well as sound debates regarding books and political writings, said Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Mr. Memli Krasniqi at the opening of the 14th edition of the Book Fair in Prishtina. He pointed out that in the current year, when Albanians mark the century of Independence, we should respectfully honour our authors who through many years have contributed a lot for the education of many generations. Drafting of a common ABC book of Kosovo and Albania, exactly, in the century of Independence is a really great achievement, pointed out Minister. In his speech, Minister Krasniqi added that the Institutions' support for books is increasing every following year and he promised that such a support will be in many dimensions in the future as well. "In the current year we have doubled the budget on supporting books. Our support will increase even more, not only financially but also in other forms, in order to have a much more presence of books available in our libraries and increase a genuine creativeness as well. Let me congratulate once again the Kosovo Publishing Association for their great work carried out through all these years, especially, in the current year. We will in continuity support you and all our genuine creators", emphasised Minister. On the other hand, Mr. Daut Demaku, the Chairman of Kosovo Publishing Association, which has been organising fairs through many years, expressed his thanks to all his supporters, who according to him, made possible the fair to being as qualitative and massive as possible in every following year. The representatives of Albania Publishing Association as well assessed this fair and emphasised the fact of increased collaboration between publishers from Kosovo and Albania.

Kosova Cinematography Center is presented for the first time in Cannes

Kosovo Cinematographic Center for the first time presented at the Cannes Film Festival, film making in Kosovo.

Republic of Kosovo had its own pavilion in the "Marche du Film" to the Cannes festival where Mr. Fatos Berisha, director of KCC, and Arben Zharku, Chairman of the Board of KCC that introduced to many world filmmakers film projects implemented in Kosovo and expressed interest in cooperation. Thanks to the French hosts, Kosovo had its place next to the French pavilion.

Presentation of films from Kosovo is done through catalogs, and video and in this part six films co-financed by the KCC, three of which are feature films, the other three belong to the genre of short film. At the Cannes Film Festival, the highest in the country's film presented feature films during the "Agnus Dei" by Agim Sopi and "Hero" a play by Luan Kryeziu. Presentation of Kosovo in Cannes has raised a



considerable interest to many filmmakers and film directors of the cinematographic centers in the world. Director, Fatos Berisha praised the participation of Kosovo as an extremely important step for Kosovo's cinematography. Furthermore he said that in the future there will be specific steps of cooperation with directors from Europe and other countries. The media in France showed a great



interest for Kosovo's presentation, where Kosovo was presented several times, in different interviews and events. Kosovo's Cinematography Center in Cannes, in its pavilion had organized a reception for filmmakers, actors, scriptwriters and producers, where turnout was quite high. Kosovo for the first time this year also had its own pavilion in the Berlinale Film Festival.

Kosovo joins European Film Promotion

Kosova's Cinematography Center (KCC) became a member of the pan-European organization –European Film Promotion (EFP). This decision was taken at the General Assembly of this organization and it is announced today. Kosovo becomes the 33rd member of this network organisation. Kosovo, respectively KCC becomes full member and equal to all other member countries.

EFP was formed 14 year ago, and is a unique institution for the promotion of films, with very good programs for actors (Shooting Stars), producers (Producers of the Move) and directors (Ten European Directors) held during the entire year. Also, through EFP membership KCC will promote films as european films in markets of Asia and America.

“Once again I want to thank EFP members for accepting our candidacy. This is a very good news for Kosovo and it's cinematography. It was not easy to reach here. Since I've been taking this duty last year, I started working for this membership. It has been a complicated process, especially when it is known that in this organization there are states that have not recognized Kosovo, including Serbia. But, at the end of the day, most important thing is that we are now equal members, and our industry, our filmmakers will gain concrete benefits from now on” said director of Kosova Cinematography Center Mr.Fatos Berisha.

Even the major media that cover film world,such as 'Hollywood Reporter' and 'Screen Daily' have published the news about Kosovo joining the EFP. President of EFP, Christian Juhl Lemche of Denmark said: “I am happy to welcome the

Kosova Cinematography Center to the network of European Film Promotion”, states EFP President Christian Juhl Lemche. “I hope that EFP's activities can help the Kosovar film industry to promote their films and talents internationally and I look forward to the insight KCC will bring to EFP.” It should be emphasized that Kosovo has been accepted to this organization before Bosnia and Montenegro. EFP is financed by 'Media' program of the European Union and its headquarter is located in Hamburg, Germany.



UNESCO's approach toward Kosovo should change



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Mr. Memli Krasniqi welcomed in a meeting some of UNESCO's Ambassadors, who are also members of the World Heritage Committee, with whom he discussed regarding achievements and challenges in the field of cultural heritage. Minister Krasniqi informed the Ambassadors with the work carried out so far related to preservation and propagation of cultural heritage, while emphasizing that there are many achievements and there is willpower on working even more. He especially emphasized and discussed the issue regarding Kosovo artifacts which since year 1999 still unfairly remain in Beograd.

He pointed out that Kosovo has requested several times, in different ways the return of these artifacts to Kosovo, and to Kosovo citizens, but he added that there was and there is still a lack of willpower by the side of Serbia on this issue. In the context of returning heritage treasure, and as a positive example to be taken into account,

minister Krasniqi mentioned a soon delivery of some Kosovo artifacts that were found in Germany a few years. Another aspect of discussion has also been the relationship between Kosovo and UNESCO. Minister expressed his concern regarding the lack of an official communication of this mechanism with Kosovo and he added that such an approach should change, without taking into account the fact of Kosovo not being a member of the World Heritage Committee, in order that our State as well could have the opportunity of heritage propagation and support.

As for achievements made related to heritage, Minister mentioned the following : amendment of the Law with the aim of being more implementing and clarified for Institutions' competences, approval of a temporary list on monument protection, engaging more on archeological excavations of rescue and research character, program on emergency interventions, obtaining funds for monument restoration as well as documentation and propagation of cultural heritage through various publications, such as video-spots, archeological guide and other forms that are planned to be issued. Minister added that there are many challenges in this aspect, especially the financial ones in order to support even more restoration and preservation of cultural heritage, but he also added that financial support will increase in the future.

On the other hand Ambassadors assesses the work carried out in Kosovo so far, while adding that now they already have a different image for Kosovo in comparison with information coming from different counties, especially those from Serbia. They promised to continue the cooperation and communication with Kosovo. The Ambassadors have arrived in Kosovo with the aim to closely see and being informed with the situation of heritage and cultural diversity.

Minister Krasniqi: Ardian Kozniku, Kosovo's pride and an example to new generations of football players of Kosovo



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Mr. Memli Krasniqi received in his office today former well-known football player, currently Dinamo Zagreb coach, Adrian Kozniku. Minister Krasniqi stated he is honoured that in the name of Kosova Institutions expresses the deepest gratitude to Kozniku for his contribution given in promoting Kosova sport and above all for the works and great successes he has achieved, for which added Minister Krasniqi, made all Kosova people proud. He also stated that Adrian Kozniku has been and still is a respected name by all; furthermore, he is a good example for many new sportsmen aiming to have a successful career in football and meanwhile also be motivated to work harder. The Minister added that Kozniku and many other sportsmen of his generation and also very successful new sportsmen are the greatest capital that Kosova has, whereby it represents to the world the real image of the country. In this meeting, Minister Krasniqi informed Mr. Kozniku regarding the achievements and challenges in general in Kosova sport. He stated that FIFA's

decision to allow friendly matches has returned hopes to the youth and there is a bigger motivation on competitions. Furthermore, the Minister added, this decision brought a bigger mobilisation to all, towards improving necessary conditions for development of quality competitions. He informed the former football player Mr. Kozniku with some millions investments carried out in the last two years as well as the MCYS plan for the future.

Seeing that sport isolation is breaking through, the Minister stated that Kosova should unite all successful sportsmen, like those of 90's as well as new football players in order to contribute in any form or way to push forward the sport, particularly football and also become a successful story in the region. The coach and former football player Adrian Kozniku thanked the Minister for receiving him, the good words and respect shown to all successful Albanian football players; by meeting them and keeping close contacts. He said that he is very happy that there are positive steps in sport. Kozniku emphasized that he continuously follows developments in Kosova sports and added that he is ready

to give his contribution under any circumstances in order to move forward Kosova sport. Kozniku stated he is very happy that such willingness has been shown by all football players and sportsmen from Kosova who have achieved and achieve success on international stage.

Ardian Kozniku is one of the most respected personalities in Croatia. He has helped Croatia National Football Team with his performances and goals to achieve higher success in European and World competitions. Kozniku has been part of golden generation of Croatia, which in the World Cup 1998 won the bronze medal.

Adrian Kozniku started his football career at Vellaznimi FC from Gjakova and later was picked up by Prishtina FC. In 1990 he moved to a well-known Croatian side Hajduk Split, and he is one of the best football players of this club. Later he played for French club namely, Cannes, Le Havre, Bastia. He has also played for two years for Dinamo Zagreb, where he trades his coaching skills with different club ranks.

European practices on copyright serve as a guide for Kosovo



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Mr. Memli Krasniqi pointed out that State Institutions and creators in the field of art, literature and science have a great need on considering the best experiences and ideas from the European countries regarding management of copyright protection and fight against the piracy. He made these comments at the opening of Conference “Collective management of copyright and piracy”, where are participating creators of different fields in Kosovo, as well as experts of the author's right from Europe. This conference which will last for two days is organized by the MCYS, within the frame of information campaign on copyright in Kosovo, which has the following motto “Kosovo protects the author”.

Minister said that MCYS will seriously consider all the ideas and recommendations resulting from the discussions made at this conference, and he hopes that such an approach will be followed by other institutions as well which are called to protect the author's right. In his speech, minister Krasniqi pointed out as well that in Kosovo, the creators of all fields have reasons to express the optimism that their original works will be protected finally. “I believe that the optimism of all creators and performers is real. I consider that the issuing of a quite good Law, functioning of the Office on copyright, the establishment of a Task

Force against the piracy, that is expected to happen soon, the issue of regulations foreseen by Law, commence of an information campaign on copyright and plans to operate even more concretely in this field are results that should give to all of us hope that finally, the situation is being changed for better. This conference itself which, will last for two days, is a further step of our common engagement”, he pointed out.

Minister added that topics of this conference are exactly the main issues on which it is required a hard work in order to have concrete results at the end. “Associations have the main responsibility on overseeing the respect of the right that it administers, reporting of violation cases as well as awarding the use of the right in the form as foreseen by Law. Naturally, the State Institutions will always be close to these associations to provide their own legal obligations toward this difficult process. A good cooperation between associations and State mechanisms, especially the procurement and competent courts could bring quite encouraging results”, he pointed out, while encouraging the creators of other fields to follow the example of music creators and performers as well as film creators, by establishing collective associations.

Regarding the piracy matter, minister notified the participants that it is already being concluded a particular

study regarding the damage that piracy causes to creators, institutions and the Government itself. “It is evident that in Kosovo there were a lot of challenges caused by piracy, even in the economic aspect. But it is evident that with the same problem were also faced in the past and currently are being faced as well countries that have a long institutional and legal tradition. The study which will be carried out will be the basis for our actions, and as I also mentioned before it will begin by the establishment of a Task Force against piracy. This mechanism will have the responsibility for taking concrete actions on fighting piracy and it will comprise by the Inspectorate of Market, Police of Kosovo, Customs, Public Prosecutor's Office, Courts, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and other Institutions that have responsibilities of this field”, stated minister Krasniqi.

Mr. Abdullah Aliu, professor of the author's right at the University of Prishtina spoke at this occasion regarding the legal basis that protects the original work of every individual in every subject. He emphasized that in Kosovo already is being obtained a good dynamic of the author's right protection. He mentioned that the protection of original work is also a part of the Kosovo Penal Code and it is guaranteed by Constitution as well. Mr. Baris Isik, expert of the author's right from Belgium spoke in front of the participants related to protection of the author's right in Europe and the legal and functional cadre within the frame of EU, that guarantee this right. He pointed out that the technology enhancement and manipulations with it remains a challenge and he notified participants regarding the encouragement of the European Parliament to collective associations for new models of cooperation among them.

On the other hand, experts from Slovenia have pointed out to having many challenges on achieving concrete results and they considered that in many aspects the situation is similar in Kosovo and Slovenia as well.

Road to IOC



We should be careful, and have a coordination and progression of our position, so that when Kosovo Olympic Committee applies to be accepted in the International Olympic Committee we should be confident to receive a positive answer, pointed out Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Mr. Memli Krasniqi, after the meeting with the head of Kosovo Sailing Federation, Mr. Rilind Reka and the head of Kosovo Olympic Committee, Mr. Besim Hasani. The meeting was held two days after the Kosovo Sailing Federation becomes a member with full rights in the International Sailing Federation. This federation increases into five the number of Kosovo Federations of olympic sports being members of respective international federations, and as a result Kosovo has also accomplished the technical criteria for application to be a member of IOC. Minister Krasniqi appreciated the membership of KSF as a very significant step of Kosovo sport, and he expressed his gratitude to Mr. Reka and Mr. Hasani for their hard work so far. He also expressed his gratitude to international friends who assisted and continue their assistance on breaking the sport isolation in Kosovo. The internationalisation of five olympic sports federations, according to minister Krasniqi already facilitates the membership of KOC to IOC. Nevertheless, he added that the process should not be carried hastily. Minister claimed that in the following weeks and months are expected good news regarding the recognitions of State of

Kosovo, and as a result the criteria of IOC for international state recognition will be accomplished. As we all know, in the requirement of IOC is not emphasised decisively being member of United Nations Organisation, nevertheless, even more state recognitions should be expected in order to not having dilemmas regarding the interpretation issues of this criteria by IOC, pointed out the minister. "We will be careful and as confident as possible in order that when we proceed the application process it is very likely to be accepted and have a positive result. It is facilitating that the UN is not expressly mentioned by IOC, as it is in UEFA, and the interpretation issue of the term "recognition by international community" is in the discrepancy with IOC.

We had the chance to apply even earlier, by taking into account the interpretation of Olympic Chart, but the application was likely to be refused and as a result we would not have the right of applying once again for a certain period of time", pointed out the minister, when he was asked by the journalists for the following steps to be undertaken in the next days. Minister was asked also about the internal sport organisation, as a responsibility that each federation should have at the moment of membership. He claimed that federations work independently but he added that more engagement is needed. "We have regulated the field of sport in the legal sense, especially after the amendments made in the Law on Sport and after the work carried out on

issuing other sublegal acts. The status of KOC accomplishes the criteria of Olympic Chart. Nevertheless, in Kosovo there is a continuous need for the sport progression, sport organisations as well, by federations and KOC.

I believe the heads of federations and KOC will engage themselves regarding these issues, not MCYS, because federations are independent in their work. I believe they plan to continue being engaged on this matter because the acceptance except being a privilege is an additional responsibility as well. The responsibility to obtain the regulations of Olympic Chart is bigger", declared the minister.

In the case of Sailing Federation, minister promised the support of developing as many competitions as possible, and on discovering new talents who would achieve great successes in the international arena in the future.

While expressing his gratitude to minister Krasniqi for his support, the head of KSF, Mr. Rilind Reka claimed that now it is their responsibility to organise as many competitions as possible, discover talents and make this sport massive.

Meanwhile, in his speech, the head of Kosovo Olympic Committee, Mr. Besim Hasani, as well made an assessment on acting with coordination and diligence while applying for acceptance of KOC to IOC. He added that he is in continuous contact with international partners of sport field, and he expects to receive their advices as well regarding the future steps.

Statement of Minister Krasniqi for FIFA's decision on Kosovo: Kosovo is breaking the isolation in sport



The decision of the FIFA to accept the request of the Republic of Kosovo to play friendly matches in the international arena is one of the most important news that Kosovo has received throughout these years.

Finally, the efforts of many people who have worked ceaselessly to successfully move towards internationalization of the sport, being crowned with success. Obviously this is a watershed moment for football, sport in general but also in general for the state.

With this decision today we are moving toward affirming the successful introduction of the state and our values.

I want to express my considerations on high for all players, coaches, our fans, who for so many years have been willing to work in unfavorable circumstances.

Also want to express gratitude to all those people who for so many years have invested in various forms in the development of football in Kosovo.

Our international friends who helped us in our efforts to break the isolation of Kosovar football. Also, deserve our praise too.

We have a appreciation for the work done by all Kosovo institutions and especially the Football Federation of Kosovo, headed by Mr. Fadil Vokrri.

Kosovo is breaking the isolation in sport.

As you know, some days before we managed to have even joined the federation's fifth internationally, with whom we have met the technical requirement for application to the International Olympic Committee.

I am in Quebec of Canada, together with the head of the Kosovo Olympic Committee, Besim Hasani, the Convention's annual SportAccord, where he held the meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee and which will also talk about the sport of Kosovo.

Rightly, we expect good news we Kuebek.

I firmly believe that we soon will be equal member of FIFA, UEFA and all other global and continental federations.

I will continue to work hard in this direction and encourage the sports leaders in Kosovo to step up their efforts.

As I have said on many occasions, we must now focus on developing the internal competition, promotion of quality and respect for fair play.

Minister Krasniqi and Ambassador Cliff attended the tournament “Judo for tolerance” in Peja

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Mr. Memli Krasniqi, together with the British Ambassador in Prishtina, Mr. Ian Cliff, attended today the tournament of judo in Peja, “Judo for tolerance”, a tournament that follows tradition and the world example of organising the Olympic sports activities, prior to Olympic Games, which will be held in London this year. This tournament was supported by the MCYS and the British Embassy, and there were participating different clubs from Kosovo.

Minister Krasniqi took the opportunity to assess the great enthusiasm of Kosovo Judo Federation on making this sport massive and drawing up as many talents as possible, who will bring to Kosovo many medals in the future. He stated that it is unfair to not allowing the participation of Majlinda Kelmendi in “London 2012” by representing Kosovo flag or as an independent sportswoman, nevertheless he emphasised the significance of Majlinda being in London herself. He is convinced that the judo sportswoman from Peja is the only chance to get the medal and she is the best among the



Olympic team of Republic of Albania. Minister Krasniqi said that there will never be a lack of his support for judo. “I would like to confirm once again that judo deserves to be as a priority sport in the Republic of Kosovo”, said minister Krasniqi. The ambassador of Great Britain in Prishtina Mr. Ian Cliff, as well, expressed his support on

developing sport in Kosovo and on affirming talents. He also expressed his regret that Majlinda Kelmendi will not represent Kosovo in London, while adding that however, it is significant for all population and for Majlinda as well that she will be a part of the competition there.

We will honor forever all individuals and organizations that helped Kosovo in the hardest times



The people of Kosovo are forever grateful to all individuals and organizations from around the world that in the most difficult moments have been on our side. So said Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Mr. Memli Krasniqi, during the unveiling ceremony of the monument honoring all personalities and organizations that contributed to the freedom of Kosovo from 1990 to 2012. The establishment of this monument has been the initiative of "Ponte della solidarietà Kosovo". This event was also attended by the Italian Ambassador in Kosovo, Mr. Michael Giffon, Minister of Internal Affairs of Kosovo, Mr. Bajram Rexhepi, as well as local and international personalities from the fields of arts, politics, science, sport, etc.

Minister Krasniqi met the Vice President of the Football Federation of Germany, Mr. Rainer Milkoreit

The organization and work that is being carried out in German football is a great example for Kosovo, said Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Mr. Memli Krasniqi during his meeting with the vice President of Football Federation of Germany, Mr. Rainer Milkoreit.

In the meeting were also present the heads of Football Federation of Kosovo, the chairman Mr. Fadil Vokrri and the Secretary, Mr. Eroll Salihu. Minister Krasniqi thanked Mr. Milkoreit for the assistance of Football Federation of Germany provided to Kosovo football, by education and licensing of trainers, in the sport infrastructure and other organizational aspects.

He appreciated the commitment of German Federation on continuing their assistance in the future as well, and he emphasized that this is very significant for Kosovo, especially now, after FIFA's decision on allowing Kosovo to develop

friendly matches. Minister Krasniqi assessed the decision as a great step that will have impact in the development of football in Kosovo, in making it massive and especially in the affirmation of many talents.

He notified Mr. Rainer Milkoreit for the engagement of MCYS toward the improvement of conditions for competition developments in football as well as in the process of sports internationalization. Football Federation of Kosovo pointed out the minister has had and will always have a great support by the State and he took the opportunity to also appreciate the work carried out by FFK.

The vice President of Football Federation of Germany Mr. Milkoreit assessed the will and the engagement of the State and FFK on visibly developing football and sport in general. He also considered the FIFA's decision as a significant step while assessing also that currently many talents of Kosovo will have the chance to prove themselves before the world. Mr. Milkoreit promised that there will not be a lack of assistance provided by their side, and such assistance will be provided to them in every aspect.



Kosovo could learn from good examples in France



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Mr. Memli Krasniqi, emphasised today that France has been and it is still one of the countries that has given a great support to the development of culture in Kosovo. He made these comments during a meeting he had with the ambassador of France Mr. Jean Francois Fitou, in Prishtina, with whom he discussed regarding the cooperation between two countries in the field of culture and heritage. Minister took the opportunity for thanking the ambassador Fitou for the support given by his country. In his speech minister also assessed that France is one of the most significant cultural countries in the world and as much cooperation as possible between the two countries would be really fruitful for the artistic community in Kosovo. He also notified the ambassador regarding some of the achievements so far in the field of culture and heritage, and sport as well, and discussed about the projects which are in the process of realisation and those which are expected to be realised as well. On the other hand, Ambassador Mr. Jean Francois Fitou, pointed out that France is very interested to assist the development of culture, and cultivation of authentic values. He declared that this commitment will continue further on, and our goal will be to expand the projects and ideas as well. Minister and Ambassador Fitou agreed to be in continuous contact and cooperate in the realisation of common projects.

Minister Krasniqi visited the Central Institute for Restoration and Conservation in Rome



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Mr. Krasniqi today visited Central Institution for Restoration and Conservation in Rome whereby met Mr. Alesandro Bianchi and Carlo Cacace, two main experts of this institution. MCYS and subordination institutions on cultural heritage in Kosova have close cooperation with this institution. Minister Krasniqi has closely observed the works carried out in this institution, respectively in laboratories.

Minister Krasniqi thanked Mr. Bianchi for cooperation and assistance that he personally and the Central Institution of Rome has given to Kosova, under the function of heritage preservation and promotion. He informed Mr. Bianchi on MCYS engagements on heritage area. The Minister said that inheritance is a priority for this mandate and so far there have been a considerable progress. He added that a work is in progress for amendment of the Law on Inheritance in order that it becomes functional and defines clear powers for each institution. The Minister stated that currently Kosova Institute for the Protection of Monuments and Kosova Archaeological Institute have a more important role in restoration and diggings. By all means we need more expertise and responsibility from each in order that the works are run properly, added Mr. Krasniqi. In this perspective he requested from Central Institution for Restoration and Conservation to continue providing professional engagements in Kosova.

Mr. Bianchi in capacity of an expert estimated that a progress has been made and a good job has been done in Kosova. He stated that there remain challenges but promised that the institution, he is part of, in continuity will be ready to provide its assistance. Mr. Bianchi estimated that the amendment of law and definition of powers for each cultural heritage related institutions in Kosova is necessary.

Institutions are working hard to enable our children to pursue their dreams



Elhami Gerbeshi, a five year old boy from Prishtina proved his talent in chess today. He was invited by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Mr. Memli Krasniqi to play a game of chess in the event of the International Children's Day.

Elhamiu won the game and he was given a chessboard with chessmen as a gift by Minister. Minister Krasniqi congratulated and wished to a five year old boy a career like the well known world's masters of chess such as Gary Kasparov and Bobby Fischer.

While feeling quite happy with the fact that Kosovo has got many talents in various sports, such as Elhamiu, Minister Krasniqi pointed out that local Institutions will always support them, with the aim of facilitating their great achievements in international arenas and through them to affirm the State as well.

Kosovo is a new country with the majority of young age people and the Government of Kosovo will continue working toward improving conditions for a better life of our youth and children, while also enabling them to develop their talent in sport, culture or other fields", said the minister in this occasion, and he also took the opportunity to encourage parent of Elhami to follow and encourage his son on developing his talent.

Doors of international sports are opening for Kosovo



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Mr. Memli Krasniqi today participated in several activities to mark June 23rd – the Olympic Day.

Initially he had a meeting with the leaders of Olympic Committee of Kosova, whereby he discussed the achievements and challenges, and then he participated at central activities in Youth Centre, where several sports competitions were held. Together with the former well-known football player Mr. Adrian Kozniku, Minister Krasniqi was part of MCYS mini-football team that participated in a tournament including three other teams, namely, Olympic Committee, Kosova Security Force and Faculty of Physical Education Team.

In the meeting with leaders of Olympic Committee of Kosova and the opening of central ceremony in Youth Centre, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Mr. Memli Krasniqi estimated that even though there are many challenges in Kosova sport,

internationalizing in particular, the situation is a lot better than a year ago.

He expressed his gratitude for many sportsmen that for years have worked to keep sports spirit alive in Kosova, and with all their work they have done, they have given names that today are successful on international stage. "Sportsmen are one of the most significant values of our country and we are proud of all of them" said Minister Krasniqi.

"The world started to understand injustice done to us and doors are opening to us now. Last year and particularly this year have brought bigger changes. Today, we are more ready than ever to knock at the doors of International Olympic Committee and many of our sports, especially football, have made significant steps to be part of international competitions" said while expressing once again his indignation that Kosova undeservedly was not

allowed to be part of Olympic Games "London 2012". "Anyhow, we will not stop and it is very important that our very successful sportswoman Majlinda Kelmendi will be there"

He said that there will be no lack of support of MCYS and other institutions at any moment. The Minister called OCK, Federations and all sport workers to make more efforts to advance the sport.

"If in the last year we were in a less favourable situation than this year, certainly the next year will be better than now" added the minister.

This year Kosova managed to fulfil a technical criterion for application at International Olympic Committee, by becoming member of five Olympic sports Federations of their respective international federations. Very good news for Kosova sport has been FIFA's decision to allow Kosova play international friendly matches.

Minister Krasniqi inaugurated the Sports Centre in Malisheva, one of the most modern in Kosova.



Malisheva now have one of the most modern sports centres in the country and all that thanks to an investment carried out by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport. In the vigil of Liberation Day of the Municipality, the Minister of Culture Youth and Sports Mr Memli Krasniqi and the mayor of Malisheva Municipality Mr Isni Kilaj together have inaugurated the Sports Centre, where two million and two hundred thousand euro were invested. In this event were present sportsmen and many citizens of Malisheva Municipality. Minister Krasniqi stated that this Sport Centre will be an institution in its own, since Malisheva will bring talents which will represent Kosovo in international competitions in the future. "You have given a lot to Kosova on the journey to its freedom and state-building process; therefore, you deserve a special attention from state institutions and society in general. May you enjoy the Sports Centre and I encourage you to work harder in organizing competitions and different clubs, always counting on state institutions' support. No doubt that with hard work and great will, sports clubs from Malisheva will be competitive not only in competitions within Kosova but to the region and broader", added Minister

Mayor of Malisheva Mr. Isni Kilaj thanked Minister Krasniqi for the support given and appreciated that the investments carried out by Kosova Government for many years now has changed Malisheva a lot. "There will be many other projects particularly in sports, construction of courts, polygons,

culture, inheritance and other investments for better life in our municipality", added the mayor. mentioned that this is a result of hard work and great successes of Kosovo judof sportists in international arenas as well.



The conservation of Vushtrri Castle starts

Deputy Minister of Culture Youth and Sport Mr. Hajdin Abazi participated today in the commencement of works in restoration of the Vushtrri Castle, which is also part of monuments under restoration in a donation of 1.5 million dollars that the MCYS has benefitted last year from American Embassy in Prishtina. This project will be implemented by a Swedish organization Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB). Deputy Ambassador of American Embassy in Prishtina Mr. Michael J Murphy was present as well. Deputy Minister Mr. Abazi highly appreciated the assistance provided by United States of America to Kosova, particularly in Cultural Heritage. He emphasized that the MCYS's mandate is to give priority to cultural heritage and so far a significant progress has been made. He also stated that there will be more efforts in the future in restoration point of view, archaeological diggings and promotion. "Our commitment is to work harder and we are proud that our national and



international partners support us. Indeed, cultural heritage belongs to every one of us and it is a benchmark but not division, as it happened in the past" added Deputy Minister Abazi. Deputy Ambassador of the US Embassy in Prishtina, Mr. Michael J. Murphy stated that to ensure the future with pride and

prosperity of Kosova, we all must work to preserve and protect every piece of its multi-ethnic heritage. Whereas, mayor of Municipality of Vushtrri Bajram Mulaku, on behalf of citizens of Vushtrri expressed his gratitude to US Government for its support for cultural heritage in Vushtrri.

From next Year University of Prizren will launch a Master Programme for Cultural Heritage and Tourism Management

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Mr. Memli Krasniqi received in his office the Rector of University of Prizren, Mr. Mazllum Baraliu and an Italian professor of classical studies Mrs. Sara Santoro, who also is grant holder of Tempus IV Program, which foresees opening of a two-year Master Program on Cultural Heritage and Management of Tourism at University of Prizren. This was the main subject of discussions, whereby Minister Krasniqi expressed his full support and estimated as necessary opening of such program, which is thought to start from the next year. Minister Krasniqi said that MCYS will be ready and available with all its expertise within its own institutions related to cultural heritage and also provide support in other fields which are responsibility of MCYS. He said that liaison of cultural heritage field with economic development of a country is an essential element, which is in MCYS vision.



Minister said that such program will influence capacity building and professional development of human resources in heritage and tourism field.

An important element that Minister Krasniqi mentioned was involving international experts within teaching and practical work. He said that with this Kosova wishes to obtain the best practices in management of heritage and tourism.

On the other side, professor Santoro highly appreciated cooperation provided by MCYS. She said that Kosova has a very rich heritage and cultural tourism will be very useful to economic development. Santoro also stated that in the program are expected to be included international experts.

Whereas UPZ Rector, Mr Mazllum Baraliu said that for the program have received very high assessments by international experts from university education field and experts of heritage and tourism. He said that he received great support from MCYS and thanked Minister Krasniqi for showing such high cooperation.