



ASSEMBLY OF
KOSOVA
September, 2007

COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMY, TRADE, INDUSTRY, ELECTRICITY, TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATION

WORK PLAN 2007

On January, the Committee approved the annual work plan, which determines dynamics of work for year 2007. In this year's agenda, the Committee has foreseen the process of reviewing and amending draft laws under its jurisdiction, monitoring the implementation of laws, visiting different institutions as well as organizing public hearings.

A work plan increased the need for cooperation between committee support staff and legal offices respective ministries and legal office of the Prime Minister considering that work plan is mainly based on the legislative strategy of the Government. The Committee members expect from government to respect time lines for submitting draft laws as foreseen by the legislative strategy in effort to complete their responsibilities as foreseen by the plan.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Rules of Procedures of the Assembly foresee that Committees shall meet at least twice a month. Between January and July, Committee met 23 times. During these meetings, committee members have been mainly focused on the process of reviewing and amending draft laws, hearing government officials who were invited to report in front of the Committee and also consultations with local and international experts. The Committee meetings were open for the public and were followed by monitors from different organizations and sometimes by media representatives.

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION



The Parliamentary Committee for Economy, Trade, Industry, Electricity, Transport and Telecommunication, is one of the functional committees of the Assembly of Kosovo. The Committee consists of 14 members representing different political parties of the Assembly. Committee is engaged on establishing and

following the implementation of policies for development of areas covered by the laws under jurisdiction of the Committee.

Primary role and responsibility of this Committee is to build the legal infrastructure through reviewing and amending draft laws, monitor implementation of laws, oversee the work of

respective ministries on implementing general policies and obligations of agencies, boards and other budgetary organizations working under jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee is also involved on creation and implementation of strategies for economic development, especially focusing on creation of safe environment for foreign investments.

Executive competencies on the issues falling under Committee jurisdiction are covered by Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Energetic and Mines, Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications. This committee is considered overloaded with draft laws on procedure and other responsibilities considering that it covers the activities of three different ministries.

REVIEW OF DRAFT LAWS

The draft laws submitted in the Assembly of Kosovo that cover issues related to economy, trade, industry, energy, transport and telecommunication, are reviewed and amended by this Committee. Since January, Committee reviewed seven draft laws including: Draft Law on approving Convention of Council of Europe

with regard to crimes in area of cybernetics, from the aspect of legal basis on constitutional framework, Draft Law on Road Traffic Safety, Draft law on amendments and additions of the Law on Energy Regulatory Office, Draft Law on Business Organizations, Draft law for amending and reviewing the Law on Road Transport.

With the aim of improving the quality of laws Committee organized several consultative meetings with government officials and local and regional experts. Some of the draft laws have passed the second reading while Committee will continue to work on the process of reviewing and amending the remaining laws in procedure.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Committee for Economy, Trade, Industry, Electricity, Transport and Telecommunication
Assembly Building, Office- E 211
Tel: 038 211 297 & 038 211 185
E-mail: hasan.tahiri@assembly.org & advie.morina@assembly.org

With the aim of reviewing draft laws more efficiently and improve the quality of laws, committees organize public hearings. These hearings serve to gather opinions and suggestions of experts from related fields, representatives of interest groups, non government organizations, different associations and especially those categories that are directly affected by the law. This enables committee members to have a clear view on issues which will be regulated by the law and help them take the right decisions.

Except this, committees can also organize informative hearings in cases when there are complaints on the implementation of the laws, or request for amendments to the existing laws; therefore, government officials are invited to report and answer questions for committee members. Since January, the Committee organized four public hearings. A first

PUBLIC HEARINGS



public hearing was organized related to the privatizations of property by companies which are conducting researches in mines and concessions for public enterprises. During the month of April, Committee organized another hearing with regard to Draft Law on n Business Organizations. Third public hearing has been organized related to plans and

preparations for building the new power plant Kosova C.

In the last public hearing organized recently, the Committee discussed about the actual situation and development projects in the Ministry of Transport and Post Telecommunication. Participants in the hearings were very constructive and meanwhile brought on the table their concerns and

specific amendments. Amendments were submitted in writing and reviewed by the Committee, and some of them were incorporated in the final reports of amendments for each law. Public hearing has been considered very productive due to the large number of participants and good quality amendments proposed. In an effort to simplify the process of organizing public hearing, recently the Committee support staff in cooperation with NDI has prepared a database containing contact information's from experts and organizations related to the issues under Committee jurisdiction. The Committee staff used data base while preparing the last public hearing and considered it very helpful.

Committee will continue to organize public hearings whenever considers it deems it necessary with the aim of consulting experts and general public and improve the quality of laws.

FIELD VISITS

One of the most important role of the Committee is to conduct its oversight function. As part of this function, the Committee organized field visits to executive institutions in an effort to address the problems they are facing. Committee visited five executive institutions to gather information about implementation of laws, gaps in the legal infrastructure, and well as other practical problems they are facing. Among the files visits it is important to note the visit to the International Airport of Prishtina, Energetic Corporation of Kosova, and Post and Telecom of Kosova. Members were informed about the situation in these institutions, asked questions related to the implementation of laws reviewed and amended by committee and express their commitment to address their concerns in the Assembly.

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS

Within its scope of responsibility's, every parliamentary committee has authority to monitor implementation of laws by the respective ministries. The aim of this monitoring is to oversee implementation of laws and improve the general situation in the area covered by the law. The Committee has been very active on exercising its oversight function. Continuously, Committee monitors implementation of every law for which it has been functional committee. This year commit-

tee monitored implementation of the Law on Consumer Protection, and after several field visits and informative hearing came up with a report containing important recommendations. Report has been discussed and approved by the Assembly and its recommendations were sent to the respective ministry.

Currently, the Committee is focused on monitoring the implementation of the Law on Transportation of Dangerous

Goods. A working group has been established to follow up on this process. Working group came up with a list of institutions that must be visited and names of officials who should be summoned in effort to identify deficiencies and challenges on implementation of this law. After consultations with government officials and field visits, the Committee will draft a report showing the current situation, list problem's and challenges and finally prepare recommendations for the Ministry.

COMMITTEE FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Based on the annual work plan Committee will be focused on reviewing and amending the remaining draft laws submitted to the committee and organize visits to several institutions to monitor the implementation of laws. The Committee will also continue its oversight activities by reviewing reports from ministries and summoning minister to report and answer questionably committee members. In case an agreement will be signed with regard to the political status of Kosova, Committee will be focused on the draft laws foreseen to be approved by Ahtisari's Status Plan.