

Prime Minister of Kosovo, Isa Mustafa

Dear Mr. Žbogar, dear Mr. Meucci,

dear guests,

as citizens of the European continent and Western Balkans, we, in particular, live in a challenging and evolving environment, overwhelmed by history of conflicts, but also of coexistence and joint harmony.

The role and the importance of the integration and membership in a united European family are many and it is not easy to explain them in a few words.

EU has played and continues to play the main role in the diplomatic, trade and developmental aspect for all its citizens and also for other developing countries.

In the peace and security aspect, the role of the EU has always been the main pillar, whilst today when the threat of terrorism, extremism, organized crime and corruption continue to challenge peace, security and the way of our life, we have a greater need to fight these threats together.

Kosovo went through its toughest days and is now at the stage of democratic consolidation, development and revival. We should not set aside the bitter history and consequences that tie us to this past, especially the consequences of the last war, missing persons and the economic devastation but also the need that despite this we construct the bridges of cooperation with our neighbors.

It is appropriate to stress that Kosovo always served as an example of inter-ethnic coexistence and inter-religious tolerance, but that must be cherished even more by the young generations.

As a young country we have marked progress on our European integrations path. In the first part of this year we expect to sign the Stabilization and Association Agreement, as the first contractual agreement with the EU, for which we hope to take us quickly to the Visa Liberalization Agreement.

The Government shall focus on deep structural reforms and enhancement of the socio-economic environment. We shall create optimal conditions for foreign investors, build macro-economic and fiscal stability, and especially we shall create conditions for the development of the private sector, agriculture and increase of jobs and welfare.

Expressing our deep gratitude to KFOR and the EULEX Mission, in the domain of security and the rule of law Kosovo marked significant positive and tangible progress in the last years, which is evidenced by the fact of transfer of authorizations to local institutions. Joint challenge in the next period shall be further strengthening of this sector, and particularly addressing the fight against organized crime, corruption and terrorism.

Additional focus in specific segments shall be required, such as illegal migration and trafficking of human beings, as one of our obstacles in the visa liberalization process.

Acknowledging all our international partners, and especially the European Union, we firmly believe that in 2015, despite the challenges, and with your support it shall be a lot easier for us to fulfill the joint objectives for a prosperous Kosovo with clear European perspective.