

<b>Country/entity</b>	Kosovo Serbia Yugoslavia (former)
<b>Region</b>	Europe and Eurasia
<b>Agreement name</b>	First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations
<b>Date</b>	19 Apr 2013
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes

**Agreement/conflict level** Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

**Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)**

Former Yugoslavia

The disintegration of former Yugoslavia post cold war saw conflicts which became mediated and produced peace agreements in Slovenia (where the brief independence conflict was mediated by the EC Troika in 1991), Croatia (between Croatian and Serb populations 1991-1995), in Bosnia (between Croatian, Serb and Bosniak populations 1992-1995), in Macedonia (where mediation played a key pre-emptive role in preventing large scale conflict in 2001), in Kosovo (between Kosovar Albanians and Serbian population and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), but also between FRY and NATO, 1998-1999), and a conflict in the Presevo Valley (between Albanians in South Serbia and FRY, 2000-2001). The continued fall-out of the disintegration of former Yugoslavia also saw mediated agreement and ultimate dissolution of the Union between Serbia and Montenegro.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

In 1991, after nationalist parties won the first multi-party elections in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a violent process of disintegration commenced. With its mixed population, Bosnia-Herzegovina became the centre of the following civil war that began in 1992 between the newly formed army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (mostly Muslim Bosniacs), and the parastatal forces of self-declared Bosnian Croat (Herzeg-Bosnia) and Bosnian Serb (Republika Srpska) entities within Bosnia-Herzegovina, supported by Croatia and Serbia, with various, often short-lived, coalitions. The General Framework Agreement (Dayton Peace Agreement), signed in 1995, split the country into two ethno-federal entities, the Bosniak-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska, and included continued peacekeeping and institutional administration by international actors.

Kosovo

The conflict between Serbs and Kosovar Albanians has a long history and always involved territorial disputes as well as ethno-political, cultural and linguistic factors. The most recent phase of the conflict began in November 1997 when the Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA or UCK) began their campaign for the independence of Kosovo from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY – then Serbia and Montenegro). The subsequent war lasted until the NATO intervention, which undertook bombing campaigns of Belgrade and other places in Serbia during spring 1999. The main agreements solving the conflict were internationally driven and, finally, a UNSC resolution imposed a post-conflict arrangement in the wake of what was essentially a NATO military victory. In February 2008, Kosovo's parliament declared independence, but independence is still internationally disputed.

Close

Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)

**Stage**

Framework/substantive - partial

<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	Kosovo-Serbia Normalisation Process
<b>Parties</b>	Agreement initialed by Prime Minister of Serbia Ivica Dačić and Prime Minister of Kosovo Hashim Thaçi
<b>Third parties</b>	Agreement was mediated by European Union High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton
<b>Description</b>	Also known as the 'Brussels Agreement', this agreement sets out a series of steps to facilitate normalization of the relationship between Kosovo and Serbia. The first six points establish an Association/Community of Serb majority municipalities in Kosovo, whilst other provisions in the agreement address integrating parallel structures in northern municipalities into the Kosovo Police force, the Kosovo legal framework, holding municipal elections, and implementation details.

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**Agreement document** [KV\\_130419\\_ First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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#### Groups

<b>Children/youth</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Disabled persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Elderly/age</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Migrant workers</b>	No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/  
national group**

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive

Summary: This agreement in its entirety provides for sub-state governance through an Association/Community of Serb majority municipalities, and for integrating parallel structures in northern Serb majority municipalities into Kosovo legal structures.

Page 1, 1. There will be an Association/Community of Serb majority municipalities in Kosovo Membership will be open to any other municipality provided the members are in agreement.

Page 1, 9. There shall be a Police Regional Commander for the four northern Serb majority municipalities (Northern Mitrovica, Zvecan, Zubin Potok and Leposavic). The Commander of this region shall be a Kosovo Serb nominated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs from a list provided by the four mayors on behalf of the Community/Association. The composition of the KP in the north will reflect the ethnic composition of the population of the four municipalities. (There will be another Regional Commander for the municipalities of Mitrovica South, Skenderaj and Vushtrri). The regional commander of the four northern municipalities will cooperate with other regional commanders.

**Religious groups** No specific mention.

**Indigenous people** No specific mention.

**Other groups** No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced persons** No specific mention.

**Social class** No specific mention.

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**Gender**

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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**State definition**

**Nature of state (general)** No specific mention.

**State configuration** No specific mention.

**Self determination** No specific mention.

**Referendum** No specific mention.

**State symbols** No specific mention.

**Independence/secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** No specific mention.

**Cross-border provision** No specific mention.

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## Governance

<b>Political institutions (new or reformed)</b>	<p>Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→New political institutions (indefinite)</p> <p>Page 1, 1. There will be an Association/Community of Serb majority municipalities in Kosovo Membership will be open to any other municipality provided the members are in agreement.</p> <p>Page 1, 2. The Community/Association will be created by statute. Its dissolution shall only take place by a decision of the participating municipalities. Legal guarantees will be provided by applicable law and constitutional law (including the 2/3 majority rule).</p> <p>Page 1, 3. The structures of the Association/Community will be established on the same basis as the existing statute of the Association of Kosovo municipalities e.g. President, vice President, Assembly, Council.</p> <p>Page 1, 4. In accordance with the competences given by the European Charter of Local Self Government and Kosovo law the participating municipalities shall be entitled to cooperate in exercising their powers through the Community/Association collectively. The Association/Community will have full overview of the areas of economic development, education, health, urban and rural planning.</p> <p>Page 1, 5. The Association/Community will exercise other additional competences as may be delegated by the central authorities.</p> <p>Page 1, 6. The Community/Association shall have a representative role to the central authorities and will have a seat in the communities consultative council for this purpose. In the pursuit of this role a monitoring function is envisaged.</p>
<b>Elections</b>	<p>Page 2, 11. Municipal elections shall be organised in the northern municipalities in 2013 with the facilitation of the OSCE in accordance with Kosovo law and international standards.</p>
<b>Electoral commission</b>	<p>No specific mention.</p>
<b>Political parties reform</b>	<p>No specific mention.</p>
<b>Civil society</b>	<p>No specific mention.</p>
<b>Traditional/religious leaders</b>	<p>No specific mention.</p>
<b>Public administration</b>	<p>No specific mention.</p>
<b>Constitution</b>	<p>No specific mention.</p>

## **Power sharing**

### **Political power sharing**

Power sharing→Political power sharing→General  
Sub-state level

Page 1, 2. The Community/Association will be created by statute. Its dissolution shall only take place by a decision of the participating municipalities. Legal guarantees will be provided by applicable law and constitutional law (including the 2/3 majority rule).

Power sharing→Political power sharing→Form of 'veto' or communal majority  
Sub-state level

Page 1, 2. The Community/Association will be created by statute. Its dissolution shall only take place by a decision of the participating municipalities. Legal guarantees will be provided by applicable law and constitutional law (including the 2/3 majority rule).

### **Territorial power sharing**

Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Local/municipal government

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Page 1, 2. The Community/Association will be created by statute. Its dissolution shall only take place by a decision of the participating municipalities. Legal guarantees will be provided by applicable law and constitutional law (including the 2/3 majority rule).

Page 1, 3. The structures of the Association/Community will be established on the same basis as the existing statute of the Association of Kosovo municipalities e.g. President, vice President, Assembly, Council.

Page 1, 4. In accordance with the competences given by the European Charter of Local Self Government and Kosovo law the participating municipalities shall be entitled to cooperate in exercising their powers through the Community/Association collectively. The Association/Community will have full overview of the areas of economic development, education, health, urban and rural planning.

Page 1, 5. The Association/Community will exercise other additional competences as may be delegated by the central authorities.

Page 1, 6. The Community/Association shall have a representative role to the central authorities and will have a seat in the communities consultative council for this purpose. In the pursuit of this role a monitoring function is envisaged.

### **Economic power sharing**

No specific mention.

### **Military power sharing**

No specific mention.

## **Human rights and equality**

**Human rights/RoL general** No specific mention.

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty incorporation** No specific mention.

**Civil and political rights** No specific mention.

**Socio-economic rights** No specific mention.

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## **Rights related issues**

**Citizenship** No specific mention.

**Democracy** No specific mention.

**Detention procedures** No specific mention.

**Media and communication** No specific mention.

**Mobility/access** No specific mention.

**Protection measures** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

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## **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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## Justice sector reform

**Criminal justice and emergency law** No specific mention.

**State of emergency provisions** No specific mention.

**Judiciary and courts** Page 1, 10-11. The Judicial authorities will be integrated and operate within the Kosovo legal framework. The Appellate Court in Pristina will establish a panel composed of a majority of K/S Judges to deal with all Kosovo Serb majority municipalities. A division of this Appellate Court, composed both by administrative staff and judges, will sit permanently in northern Mitrovica (Mitrovica District Court). Each panel of the above division will be composed by a majority of K/S judges. Appropriate judges will sit dependant on the nature of the case involved.

**Prisons and detention** No specific mention.

**Traditional Laws** No specific mention.

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## Socio-economic reconstruction

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development  
Page 1, 4. In accordance with the competences given by the European Charter of Local Self Government and Kosovo law the participating municipalities shall be entitled to cooperate in exercising their powers through the Community/Association collectively. The Association/Community will have full overview of the areas of economic development, education, health, urban and rural planning.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** No specific mention.

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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## **Land, property and environment**

**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/  
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** No specific mention.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian  
rights or access** No specific mention.

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## **Security sector**

**Security  
Guarantees** No specific mention.

**Ceasefire** No specific mention.

**Police** Page 1, 7. There shall be one police force in Kosovo called the Kosovo Police All police in northern Kosovo shall be integrated in the Kosovo Police framework. Salaries will be only from the KP.

Page 1, 9. There shall be a Police Regional Commander for the four northern Serb majority municipalities (Northern Mitrovica, Zvecan, Zubin Potok and Leposavic). The Commander of this region shall be a Kosovo Serb nominated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs from a list provided by the four mayors on behalf of the Community/Association. The composition of the KP in the north will reflect the ethnic composition of the population of the four municipalities. (There will be another Regional Commander for the municipalities of Mitrovica South, Skenderaj and Vushtrri). The regional commander of the four northern municipalities will cooperate with other regional commanders.

**Armed forces** No specific mention.

**DDR** No specific mention.

**Intelligence  
services** No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel  
and opposition  
group forces** Page 1, 8. Members of other Serbian security structures will be offered a place in equivalent Kosovo structures.

**Withdrawal of  
foreign forces** No specific mention.

<b>Corruption</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Crime/organised crime</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Drugs</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Terrorism</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Transitional justice**

<b>Transitional justice general</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Amnesty/pardon</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Courts</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mechanism</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Prisoner release</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Vetting</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Victims</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Missing persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reparations</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Implementation**

<b>UN signatory</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other international signatory</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Referendum for agreement</b>	No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar**

No specific mention.

**Enforcement mechanism**

No specific mention.

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