



Reconstruction Implementation Commission  
for Orthodox Religious Sites in Kosovo

**PRESS RELEASE – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

**RECONSTRUCTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION  
PROGRAMME UPDATE - 2006**

As a result of the signing of the updated Terms of Reference by the Council of Europe, the Serbian Orthodox Church, PISG Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, and UNMIK, the Reconstruction Implementation Commission (RIC), headed by Council of Europe representative Emma Carmichael, met this week to agree the project programme for 2006.

The first round of tenders for the full reconstruction works will be launched in early June for St Joanikije at Devic and Episcopal St George, Prizren. A second tender launch will follow in early July for St Nicholas, Pristina, St George (Runovic) in Prizren, St Elias in Vucitrn/Vushtri and the Presentation of the Virgin in Belo Polje.

The tender launches reflect the priorities of the Serbian Orthodox Church for reconstruction. The tenders will be advertised widely in the newspapers and on the RIC website which is currently under design.

It is expected that works will begin on site from early August and will represent a significant development in the reconstruction of the Serbian Orthodox Churches damaged during March 2004. Works to this first phase of full reconstruction will be completed by December 2006 and will continue with a final phase of internal reconstruction in 2007.

The tender launch for the roof repairs to the Church of Ljeviska, Prizren will be re-advertised in early June and will follow revised procurement procedures established this year. The repair works are re-programmed to begin in early July and will be completed by the end of August 2006.

The Commission will be meeting in early June 2006 in preparation for the launching of the first round of tenders.

The ongoing work of the Reconstruction Implementation Commission is strongly supported by the European Commission, Council of Europe, PISG and UNMIK and has been given the additional support of the European Agency for Reconstruction.



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