



Reconstruction Implementation Commission
for Orthodox Religious Sites in Kosovo

PRESS STATEMENT – 21st November 2006

The Reconstruction Implementation Commission led by Council of Europe and with the strong support of UNMIK, announces a change of representative to the Commission in order to reinforce the institutional commitment of its members. With extensive works underway on 7 churches, technical expertise is now focused on the work sites, where the main goals of the project are being achieved.

The members proposed by the main partner institutions are as follows:

Emma Carmichael	Council of Europe representative and RIC Chairwoman
Bishop Teodosije	Serbian Orthodox Church representative
Angjelina Krasniqi	Deputy Minister, MCYS and representative of the MCYS
Gordana Markovic	Director of the Institutes for the Protection of Monuments (IPM) Serbia and representative of IPM Serbia
Burbuqe Bakija-Deva	Head of Cultural Heritage Division MCYS, and representative of IPM Kosovo

The newly re-established Commission met for the first time on Monday, 20th November 2006. They took note of the achievements of the works as planned for 2006. Work expected to be completed by the end of the year include structural reinforcement and external restoration on: Church of the Holy Virgin Ljeviska, Episcopal Church of St George, Old Church of St George (Runovic) in Prizren; Church of St Nicholas in Pristina, St Elias in Vushtrri/Vucitrn, Monastery of St Joanikije at Devic in Skenderaj/Srbica, Church of the Presentation of the Virgin, Bellopoje/Belo Polje and the perimeter wall of the Church of the Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary, Gjakove/Djakovica. Works in 2006 on these sites represent the commitment of 2.3 million euros from the Kosovo Consolidated Budget and managed by the RIC.

During the meeting Commission members also agreed on the reconstruction programme for 2007 based upon the budget request for 2.9 million euros. The programme will include reconstruction works and/or wall paintings consolidation to sixteen sites which have been identified as first and second priority on the initial list of buildings damaged in March 2004.

In recognition of the importance of the works carried out to major sites, an International Expert Board has been set up. The Board will endorse the works of the Commission to ensure international standards of quality are met.





Reconstruction Implementation Commission
for Orthodox Religious Sites in Kosovo

The international organizations supporting the project greatly appreciate the continued and strengthened commitment of all partners on the Commission and applaud the excellent progress made on sites during 2006

