



SECRETARY GENERAL  
LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

NATO  
Serbia



SG(2007)0151

28 February 2007

Dear Secretary General,

As the future status process for Kosovo led by your Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari continues to move towards completion, the requirement for a seamless transition of security capabilities in Kosovo is clear. In that regard, I am writing to you on the need to continue current UNMIK Police capabilities until the end of the planned transition to a new European Union led Police Mission following a status settlement.

NATO is prepared to continue to be the international military presence through the transition and subsequent implementation periods. NATO plans to retain current operational capabilities in Kosovo until it is clear that a safe and secure environment can be sustained.

Whilst I am fully confident in KFOR's current state of readiness to support UNMIK and local authorities in their response to potential unrest now and immediately after a status settlement, managing the future change in the international civilian presence on the ground will pose a considerable security challenge for which the international community as a whole needs to be prepared. On this issue, UNMIK Police – including its crowd and riot control elements – must be fully capable until the very end of its mission in Kosovo.

In that regard, I would like to convey to you the strong belief of all NATO Allies that maintaining present UNMIK Police capabilities until the future EU Police Mission becomes fully operational is essential for the successful management of the transition period that will follow a status settlement for Kosovo. I have raised this issue with your Special Representative in Kosovo, Dr. Joachim Rücker, during my visit to the area on 15 February as well as with President Ahtisaari at his most recent visit to NATO Headquarters on 16 February.



I look forward to continued close cooperation between our two organisations,

*Yours sincerely,*

*Jaap de Hoop Scheffer*

Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

His Excellency  
Mr Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations Headquarters  
United Nations Plaza 2  
New York 10017  
U.S.A.

Fax: 001 212 963 2155