

Newsletter # 2 – December 2012 to January 2013

- Human Rights Review Panel (HRRP) held its 14th session in Pristina
- Katja Dominik appointed as new Panel Member
- Radio Television Kosovo (RTK) debate
- Master's degree students' visit to the HRRP
- Outreach campaign

14th regular sessions of the HRRP

The HRRP held its 14th regular session in Pristina from 14 to 16 January, 2013. It was noted that there were 21 complaints pending before the Panel at the start of the session, four of which were ready for consideration by the Panel.

The Panel determined unanimously that two of the complaints were inadmissible (*Faik Ibishi against EULEX (2012-07)* and *Mufail Halili against EULEX (2012-08)*). Further, the Panel decided for the first time on the re-examination of a case. In the case *Y. against EULEX (2011-28)* the complainant submitted three additional documents after the original inadmissibility decision had been taken on 15 November 2012. These three documents had been originally sent to the Panel but did not reach it for technical reasons through no fault of the complainant.

Upon receipt of those documents, the Panel decided to re-examine the admissibility of the complaint within the meaning of Rule 42 of its Rules of Procedure. The Panel came to the unanimous conclusion that the respective documents did not impact materially on its decision to declare the complaint inadmissible.

The decisions of the Panel will be transmitted to the complainants as well as to the EULEX Head of Mission (HoM). Furthermore, the Panel decided to refer one case to the HoM for further information and observations. Decisions will be published in due course on the Panel's website upon translation into the Albanian and Serbian languages.

The Panel availed of the opportunity to amend and adopt its Rules of Procedure, which can be accessed on the Panel's website under www.hrrp.eu/reference-documents.php.

The next Panel session is scheduled to take place from 8 April to 11 April 2013 in Pristina.

If you believe to be a victim of a human rights violation by EULEX, you may file a complaint with the Human Rights Review Panel. The complaint must be filed within six months from the date of the alleged violation, and must be in writing. For more information, please visit www.hrrp.eu

Table of Jurisprudence

The HRRP developed a detailed table of jurisprudence, outlining numerous issues related to its jurisdiction, procedural matters as well as on merits of cases. The table can be accessed on the Panel's website under <http://www.hrrp.eu/jurisprudence.php>

Katja Dominik appointed as new Panel member

Ms Katja Dominik, a German citizen, studied law and Slavic languages at the University of Goettingen, Germany from which she graduated in 1996.

Ms Dominik initially worked as a Judge at the District Court in Duesseldorf where she specialized in various types of criminal law. She thereafter became deputy chairman in the District Court criminal chambers for serious capital crimes and economic crimes.

Ms Dominik was appointed as an International Judge with EULEX Kosovo in October 2011 whereupon she was assigned to the District Court Mitrovica where she deals with high profile cases of war crimes, murder, corruption and human trafficking. After serving for one year as the substitute member to the HRRP, the HoM appointed Ms Dominik as a full member in January 2013.



Students' visit to the HRRP

As in previous years, students from the European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation programme (E.MA) visited the Panel at its premises in Pristina on 17 January 2013. Students were briefed by Panel member Verginia Ruseva-Micheva about the Panel's mandate, work and jurisprudence.

A detailed discussion about the history of the Panel and its current challenges followed. Further points of interest raised included the Panel's independence in relation to EULEX as well as its impact and importance as a possible role model for future missions under the Common Defense and Security Policy of the European Union.



Left to right: Verginia Micheva-Ruseva (Panel member), John Ryan (Senior Legal Officer), Joanna Marszalik (Legal Officer)

TV debate on the observance of human rights in Kosovo

On 10 December 2012, Panel member Verginia Micheva Ruseva participated in a TV debate on Radio Television Kosovo on the theme of the “Observance of Human Rights in Kosovo”, where she elaborated on the mandate, procedures and operations of the Panel. In addition to the Ombudsperson of Kosovo, representatives of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human rights also participated in the discussion.

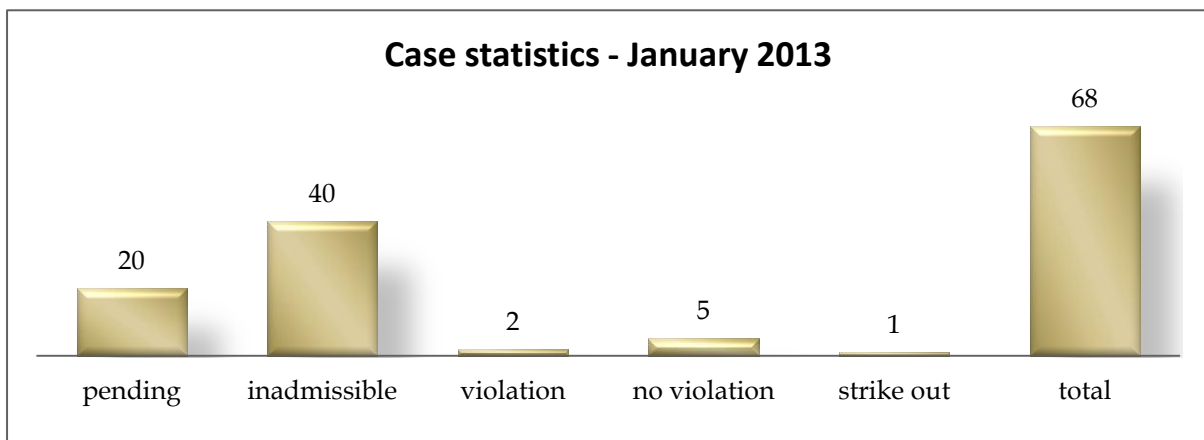


TV debate participants: left to right, Nikola Gaon, Sami Kurteshi, Resul Sinani (moderator), Nedim Osmanagic, Verginia Micheva-Ruseva

Annual report and outreach campaign

The Panel issued its [Annual report](#) for 2012 on 4 February 2013. The report describes in detail the Panel’s case work during the reporting period, its outreach campaign activities and other matters. The report also outlines future challenges, inter alia, in the context of the reconfiguration of EULEX and provides recommendations thereto.

Further, the Panel resumed its outreach campaign in northern Mitrovica on 29 January 2013 where it held a meeting with Ms. Zlata Radovanovic, Coordinator of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija, Kosovska Mitrovica.



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