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Zannier: Unmik will continue to hold an important political role

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UNMIK Chief Lamberto Zannier has said that UNMIK will continue to be present in Kosovo where it will perform an important political role.

“We are also expected to present three-month reports on the situation on the terrain, and this will be even more important because of the fact that the international community is still deeply divided over Kosovo status and the fact that (UN SC) Resolution 1244 is still in force”, Zannier said.

“We also know that EULEX will be deployed here under UN umbrella, so that UNMIK will continue to have a strong presence and it will ensure a frame for the implementation of Resolution 1244 for all that will be in charge here”, Zannier said.

As for the negotiations on the six-point plan by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Zannier said that they were now moving onto the next stage of realizing all the issues that had been agreed upon at the Security Council.

Asked to comment on the basic difference between the mandate of UNMIK and that of EULEX, Zannier said that EULEX had a mandate which had been defined in Brussels, but that at the same time, the mission would operate on the basis of Resolution 1244, which meant that it had a certain degree of responsibility toward the Security Council.

EULEX will be more encouraged in respect of ensuring stability in the Balkans, long-term sustainability and development of the region, since this is in the interest of Europe, he underlined.