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Scheffer and Solana discuss Eulex with Ban

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UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon is discussing the relationship between Unmik, Kfor and the planned Eulex mission with NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer in New York on Wednesday and EU High Representative Javier Solana in Stockholm on Thursday.

“The two secretary-generals will be discussing the relationship between Unmik, Kfor and Eulex as we approach June 15”, when the Kosovo constitution should enter in force, NATO spokesman James Appathuray said.

“Our goal is to ensure there are no security holes, that we have enough human resources and equipment”, the spokesman said.

According to the previously planned division of responsibilities, in case of riots in Kosovo, the Kosovo police service intervenes first, then Unmik, and finally Kfor.

This is worrying NATO, as the status of the planned Eulex mission did not receive a green line from the UN to replace Unmik.

The EU foreign ministers have admitted on Monday that the Eulex mission will be delayed and that its deployment would be impossible without an agreement with the UN.

This will be theme of discussion between Solana and Ban on Thursday, on the margins of a conference on Iraq.

The chairman of the EU Council of foreign affairs ministers, Dimitrij Rupel, said on Tuesday that Eulex was delayed due to problems with the “reconfiguration” of Unmik.

“We don’t have much choice there, we have promised in December that we will send the mission. We want it to be operational as soon as possible, but it is more complicated than we thought”, Rupel said.



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