

Rede der deutschen Botschafterin anlässlich eines Fortschrittsbesuchs bei der 400kV-Leitung zwischen Kosovo und Albanien in der Nähe von Obiliq/c am 10.09.2015

Dear Ministers *Hoti, Stavileci and Agani*, dear Dr. Hengster and representatives of KfW, dear Mr. Bejtullahu (CEO KOSTT), dear Ambassador Minxhozi (ALB), Ladies and Gentlemen,

The energy sector is one of main pillars for economic growth in Kosovo. Lack of energy is also one of the main obstacles for doing business in Kosovo. A recent bottleneck study has found that lack of reliable energy supply constitutes one of the main challenges for doing business for Kosovar companies.

Germany has been supporting the energy sector in Kosovo since 1999 with approximately 150 Mio. EUR provided through KfW. We started in 1999 with emergency measures at coal mines and power plants and are now providing long-term investments in electricity transmission, energy efficiency measures and district heating.

The energy sector in Kosovo still faces major obstacles due to aged assets and lack of investment in new generation capacities. Therefore, it is vital to plan and find solutions that will create affordable energy supply for the citizens and companies while putting an emphasis on reducing environmental and health hazards by using technology that can fulfill European standards.

The German support to the electricity transmission network will help to integrate Kosovo's network in the regional electricity transmission network. This is in line with the regional cooperation and connectivity agenda promoted by the German chancellor and agreed upon with the countries in the Western Balkan in Berlin. Through this 400kV-line between Kosovo and Albania we will connect further parts of the Balkans and create conditions to exchange the coal-based base load energy from Kosovo with the peak load energy with hydro-power from Albania. This will also increase the percentage of renewable energy that is available in Kosovo.

Through this project and our development cooperation as a whole Germany wants to support the Republic of Kosovo to provide perspectives for its citizens within their own country. Stable water and power supply, continuous heating in winter time and economic development can be important reasons especially for vulnerable parts of the population to stay in Kosovo.

I am very happy that today we can visit this project and see its progress together with several ministers of the Republic of Kosovo and Dr. Hengster, member of the executive board of KfW, who is visiting Kosovo to see the work of the KfW as one of the main financing institutions in Kosovo that has been supporting Kosovo since 1999 on behalf of the German government. We appreciate the good cooperation that KfW has with Kosovo institutions and the dedicated team that is working very hard to support the improvement of living conditions, to foster economic growth, environmental and climate protection and regional and European integration.