



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on
Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998),
1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)**

21 October 2025

Greece's Statement delivered
by H.E. Ambassador Aglaia Balta,
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Mr. President,

I thank Deputy Special Representative Shin, for his informative briefing. I also welcome the presence of the Ministers from Serbia and Kosovo to the Council, as well as the participation of the Delegation of the European Union at today's meeting.

Greece expresses its appreciation to the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General and former Head of UNMIK, Ms. Ziadeh for her leadership and valuable contributions in fostering respect for the rule of law and peaceful coexistence among all communities in Kosovo.

I wish to make the following points:

First, Greece remains strongly committed to supporting the normalization process of bilateral relations between Serbia and Kosovo, within the framework of the European Union-facilitated dialogue. It is imperative that both sides expedite their re-engagement, in a constructive manner, aiming at a comprehensive and legally-binding normalization agreement, beneficial for the entire region. The full respect and implementation of the Brussels-Ohrid Agreements, by both parties remain imperative in order to build trust and achieve progress in the Dialogue. Greece reiterates its steadfast support to the dedicated efforts of the EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue, Peter Sørensen. We also welcome the latest trilateral meetings, which took place, within this framework, in June and September this year, and underline the need for tangible progress.

The future of Serbia and Kosovo lies within the EU. Since the adoption of the 2003 Thessaloniki Declaration of the EU-Western Balkans Summit, Greece constantly provides its unwavering support to both parties in fulfilling their European aspirations. And we will continue to advocate the need for sincere dialogue and adherence to the principles of democracy, rule of law and respect for international law, including the inviolability of international borders, as the only viable path towards peace and stability in our region.

Second, Greece welcomes the conclusion of the first round of municipal elections in Kosovo, in a free, inclusive and peaceful manner, as well as the active and meaningful participation of all communities in the election process. We stress once more that the rights of the Kosovo-Serb community need to be fully respected and implemented, including the rights of unimpeded participation in local governance, law enforcement and the judiciary. In this context, we reiterate the need for restoring as soon as possible Kosovo Serb police officers, judges and prosecutors. The multi-ethnic character of Kosovo must be preserved.

However, the situation in northern Kosovo remains fragile. We deplore the continuation of unilateral actions, especially the on-going closure of Serb administrative structures, which are vital for the local population and have detrimental effects to the lives of Kosovo-Serbs. Greece reiterates that the establishment of the Association/Community of Serb Majority Municipalities, without preconditions, remains essential for the stability and prosperity of northern Kosovo. It is an essential part of the Agreements that must be fully respected and implemented.

At the same time, the perpetrators of the Banjska attack of 2023 must be brought to justice with no further delay and in full compliance with the rule of law principle. Accountability is key in order to consolidate peaceful coexistence and reconciliation between communities. We repeat our call to all sides for the absolute respect of human rights and freedoms of all communities in Kosovo.

Third, UNMIK's mandate is closely intertwined with UNSC Resolution 1244(1999), which provides the legal framework for a final political settlement between Serbia and Kosovo. In this context, Greece acknowledges the important role of UNMIK in promoting reconciliation in Kosovo, and supports the continuation of its mandate, as necessary. UNMIK's long-standing engagement since 1999 for preserving peace and stability in the region is unquestionable. We are open to discuss ways of enhancing the Mission's efficiency, in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1244 so that it continues to remain fit for purpose.

UNMIK coordination with the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) in Kosovo enhances trust-building among all communities and meaningful integration of the most vulnerable groups, including women and youth. We also reiterate the need for the unimpeded and secure return of refugees and displaced persons.

Finally, Mr. President,

Avoiding divisive rhetoric and consolidating reconciliation mechanisms can reinstate trust and enhance peace, stability and prosperity in Kosovo and the wider region. Greece will continue to do its part in this regard.

I thank you.