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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.8.2022)

The EU attaches great importance to the rule of law, the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, including rights of non-majority communities and religious freedom, and closely monitors all developments in these areas in Kosovo*. Addressing the needs of the Kosovo Serb non-majority community is an important element for EU actors in Kosovo. Both the EU Office in Kosovo/EU Special Representative (EUSR) and the Common Security and Defence Policy mission in Kosovo (EULEX) monitor the situation of all non-majority communities.

The EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo) is actively supporting Kosovo's law enforcement institutions in strengthening the rule of law, including their efforts to investigate security incidents related to religious and cultural sites. The EU has continuously reminded Kosovo institutions to swiftly and fully implement the judgment of the Constitutional Court on Deçan/Dečane Monastery land ownership without any further delay.

The establishment of the Association/Community of Serb-Majority Municipalities was agreed by both Parties, Kosovo and Serbia, in the 2013 Brussels Agreement. The Agreement was ratified by the Kosovo parliament and Kosovo needs to fulfil its legal obligation and implement it without delays. Both Parties need to fulfil all their international legal obligations and implement the pending agreements. They also need to make further substantial efforts in order to reach a comprehensive legally binding agreement on normalisation of relations, which is key to their European paths.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.