

[REDACTED]

DRAFT PRESS LINES

- We welcome Ambassador Eide's report and, in particular, his recommendation that a final status process be launched in Kosovo;
- Hope the UN Secretary General now appoints a Special Envoy to take this forward quickly. The UK, as a member of the Contact Group, looks forward to working with this Special Envoy to ensure that any settlement reinforces regional stability and helps strengthen democratic and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo

Who will Special Envoy be?

- That is a decision for the UN Secretary General. But hope he will choose a senior figure who has the political calibre to drive this sensitive process forward

(For use with trusted contacts on non-attributable basis: Growing consensus that Marti Ahtisaari, former Finnish PM, has all the right credentials)

Do you agree with recommendation to launch a final status process?

- Yes. The status quo is not tenable in Kosovo. Resolving final status will not solve Kosovo's problems over night but it will make it easier to build a better future for all of Kosovo's communities

What happens next?

- We expect the Secretary General to appoint a Special Envoy to take forward the status process. The UK, as a member of the Contact Group, looks forward to working closely with the Special Envoy.

How can this be justified given Standards have not been fully implemented/the ongoing difficulties faced by Kosovo Serbs?

- There has been progress on Standards (eg free and fair elections in October 2004, freedom of movement improving, more minority employment in civil service) although recognise more needs to be done. But believe further real improvements will only come as part of a final status process. Any settlement must provide robust guarantees for all minorities in Kosovo