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From: Andy McGuffie  
Press office, W7, KCS

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Minister for Europe

**KOSOVO FINAL STATUS - MEDIA**

**Issue**

1. Media update on the Kosovo Final Status Process. What do we want our public position to be by recess?

**Objective/aims/key messages**

2. HMG wishes to bring the Kosovo Final Status Process through to the best possible conclusion for regional stability and without major violence. In the absence of agreement under the Troika process that means implementing the Ahtisaari proposals.
  3. By recess, our aims are to demonstrate through media activity that:
    - Huge diplomatic time and effort have been put into the Final Status Process by the international community – the process is now exhausted.
    - Despite the failure to reach agreement so far this must be resolved politically, not militarily, with the EU in the lead.
    - HMG believes on the basis of the situation on the ground that the status quo is unsustainable.
    - Rapid resolution of Kosovo's status is necessary for the Western Balkans to be integrated into the EU and NATO.
  4. Our key messages are:
    - The Troika talks have left no stone unturned. One or the other side have rejected every possible option. Further negotiations would be fruitless.
    - We welcome the commitment from both sides to reject any recourse to violence.
    - We agree with the UNSG's assessment that the status quo is unsustainable.
    - The EU must now take a lead and take difficult decisions on the status of Kosovo.
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