

[REDACTED]

Media handling

13. There is very close (daily) co-operation between press office and our press teams in Pristina, Belgrade, Skopje, Sarajevo, Moscow, UKMIS New York, UKRep Brussels, UKDEL Brussels. We are working as part of a Whitehall communications group with MOD and DfID, and involving No 10 closely. A core script is circulated weekly.
14. In order to bring journalists up to date, we held an all-comers background briefing and Q&A this week. We gave a deep background briefing to Timothy Garton Ash (resulting article attached). Yesterday we hosted a briefing with Wolfgang Ischinger, German Ambassador to the UK and EU representative on the Troika, for diplomatic correspondents and German media in order to ram home the message that no stone had been left unturned.
15. You wrote to the Guardian (Nov 16) to set out our policy goal of long term stability for Kosovo and the Western Balkans and to stress the painstaking work of the Troika. This week you gave an interview to BBC Albanian Service expressing support for the Ahtisaari plan, should there be no agreement, which was also picked up in Serbia.
16. Our Posts in Pristina and Belgrade have been active in shaping opinion. Pristina have briefed BBC 10 o'clock news and Newsnight in addition to pushing our message through local (K-Albanian and K-Serb media). Behind the scenes, Pristina are pushing the likely Kosovo Prime Minister, Thaci, to be more vocal on his commitment to multi-ethnicity. Belgrade continue to explain our position to Serbian audiences.