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Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages

Press release

Fifth Speech by Adis Ahmetovic, MdB, in the German Bundestag - "KFOR Mission Remains an Anchor of Stability"

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Fifth Speech by Adis Ahmetovic, MdB, in the German Bundestag on July 8, 2022, on TOP 27 - Motion by the Federal Government on the "Continuation of the Participation of Armed German Forces in the International Security Presence in Kosovo (KFOR)"

- The spoken word applies -

Dear Madam President,
Dear colleagues,

Today more than ever, we must do more for peace and security in the Western Balkans! The Russian war of aggression on Ukraine, but also further attempts by Russia in the Western Balkans to weaken the EU, show us all how vulnerable state borders are and the extent to which attempts at destabilization can reach.

Our response to this can only be: Not only in terms of defense policy, but also with clearly defined political goals, we must enable a sustainable stabilization of the Western Balkans and a stronger connection to the EU. This is of high geostrategic interest for our continent.

We have signaled the turning point in Germany's Western Balkans policy, and now action must follow if we are not to squander credibility and trust.

The KFOR mission is and will remain a stabilizing force in the region and for Kosovo. Despite the current supposedly calm situation in Kosovo, Germany's commitment is still needed here. Rising political tensions, as we are currently experiencing not only between Serbia and Kosovo, are



more than worrying. KFOR is a very important foundation stone for citizens to live in peace and security.

In terms of defense and security policy, the Bundeswehr has been involved in the NATO-led international security presence in Kosovo for 23 years now. In recent years, KFOR has been a central anchor of stability in the region and has strengthened public security and order in Kosovo - for this, our thanks go in particular to our soldiers.

But continuing the mission as an anchor of stability in the region is only one building block, ladies and gentlemen. In addition to the defense policy dimension, we must also adhere to the goals of

- the application for membership in the Council of Europe is finally submitted
- visa liberalization for the Kosovars finally comes about - the EU missed a historic opportunity here two weeks ago - and we must ensure that
- Kosovo is finally recognized by everyone.

Since the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine at the latest, the KFOR mandate has taken on central importance for European security in this particularly tense environment. Therefore, we as the SPD parliamentary group are soliciting approval.

Thank you very much for your attention!