



Kosovo Press Council Statute

PREAMBLE

Freedom of information is one of the fundamental rights in every democratic society and the basis to enable people to actively participate in democratic institutions and in the social and political opinion and decision making processes. The press as the oldest mass medium plays an important role in providing citizens with relevant, accurate and unbiased information.

The print media, (press and news agencies), its journalists and editors have the particular tasks of both, satisfying the society's information needs and protecting every person's basic human rights as well as respecting the truth.

The Kosovo Press Council shall be the self-regulatory body of the Print Media sector to assure that these maxims and the Press Code of Conduct are applied equally and in the best interest of the society and its people.

Article 1 - SCOPE

The Press Council is a registered association of Kosovo print media including daily newspapers, weekly magazines and news agencies (from here referred to as Print Media) with the purpose to guarantee:

- (1) The application of the Press Code of Conduct by all its members,
- (2) The fostering of the reputation of the Print Media.

Article 2 - NAME, LOCATION

- (1) The Press Council is a not-for-profit association according to the definition given by paragraph 2.2 of UNMIK Regulation No. 1999/22 registered as a local association.

- (2) The full name of the association shall be: Këshilli i Mediave të Shkruara të Kosovës/ Press Council of Kosovo/ Savet Štampe Kosova (herewith referred to as “Press Council”).
- (3) The seat of the Press Council is in Pristina, Kosovo.
- (4) The fiscal year shall be equivalent to the legal calendar year.

Article 3 - PURPOSES

- (1) The Press Council promotes and enforces the Press Code of Conduct.
- (2) The Press Council scrutinizes complaints about breaches of the Press Code of Conduct by the print media.
- (3) The Press Council decides on measures if a complaint is considered justified.
- (4) The members of the Press Council acts independently. The representative of a print media, whose case is judged, is not allowed to vote.
- (5) The print media member of the Press Council publishes the adjudications of the Press Council free of charge.
- (6) The print media member of the Press Council publishes information about the Press code of Conduct and about the Complaints Procedure free of charge, if required to do so by the Assembly of Members.

Article 4 – MEMBERSHIP

- (1) The members of the Press Council are the signatories of this Statute, namely:
 - The Kosovo print media represented by editors-in-chief of the Kosovo` print media or their delegates, and
 - Three independent international and/or local members.
- (2) The three independent members are nominated and elected by simple majority voting by the member editors-in-chief or their delegates. They are elected for a term of one year and can be re-elected for a second term.
- (3) The members join the Press Council by signing the Press Code of Conduct and this Statute.
- (4) The Press Council it is open to all Kosovo’s print media; including those ones currently not signatories of this Statute and all future print media.

- (5) The Press Council of Kosovo takes in consideration even complaints that are made against print media that are not members. In these cases, the Press Council publishes its opinion on the complaint made against the non-member print media. The procedure of how Press Council deals with complaints against non-member print media is defined in Rules of Procedure.
- (6) The membership of the print media ends upon written notification to the chairman of the Assembly of Members and giving a notice period of one month or exclusion. Membership of the three independent members ends upon expiration of this term or upon their resignation.

Article 5– BODIES

- (1) The Press Council is composed of the Council's Assembly of Members as the highest governing body and the Council's Secretariat.

Article 6 – ASSEMBLY

A. Composition

- (1) The Assembly consists of the affiliated print media represented by editors-in-chief or their delegates, and the three independent members.
- (2) The three independent members pursue the functions of the chairman and vice-chairmen of the Assembly of Members.
- (3) The second vice-chairman is member of a minority group.
- (4) The Assembly of Members meets at least once a month. Irregular meetings should be announced by the chairman within one week's notice.
- (5) The meetings are chaired by the chairman or any of the two vice-chairmen of the Assembly of Members.
- (6) Editors-in-chief sitting on the Assembly is paid 30 euro for each attended meeting, editors-in-chief's delegates is paid 30 euro for each attended meeting, the deputy-chairman is paid 60 euro for each attended meeting, and the chairman is paid 100 euros for each attended meeting. Members of the Assembly coming from outside Pristina are reimbursed for travel expenses to the amount of 0.10 euro per kilometre.

B. Responsibilities

The Assembly of Members

- (1) Selects the chairman and deputy chairmen with secret simple majority voting.
- (2) Selects the director and complaints officer of the secretariat and decides on their contractual terms.
- (3) Decides upon the annual budget and publish a financial report at the end of each fiscal year.
- (4) Designs procedural rules.
- (5) Decides on a complaints procedure.
- (6) Decides on the validity of complaints and on measures taken in cases of breaches of the Press Code of Conduct.
- (7) Promotes and enforces the Press Code of Conduct.
- (8) Can amend the Press Code of Conduct.
- (9) Resolves disputes between plaintiffs and press by mediation.

C. Powers

- (1) The Assembly rules on the validity of complaints.
- (2) Complaints against individual journalists will not be accepted. Complaints will only be accepted if they are directed against a newspaper as a whole.
- (3) The Assembly may refuse to consider a case. In such event, the Press Council informs the plaintiff of the reasons for rejecting this complaint.
- (4) Meetings of the Assembly are open to the public, and especially to media watchdogs, unless otherwise decided by the Assembly.

- (5) The Assembly has the power to order a print media to print its adjudications on a place indicated by the Assembly.
- (6) The Assembly has the power to terminate the Press Council's membership of any print media that does not comply with its adjudication. The Assembly has the power to exclude a print media from the membership by 75% of the vote.
- (7) The Assembly has the power to amend the press Code of Conduct with 75% of the vote.

Article 7 – SECRETARIAT

Composition

- (1) The Secretariat consists of a contracted full time employed director and a full time employed complaints officer.
- (2) Both, the director and the complaints officer, are independent of political and party influence.
- (3) The director and the complaints officer are selected and nominated by the Assembly of Members.

Functions

The Secretariat and its staff:

- (1) is responsible for the administrative work of the Press Council and ensures a correct and transparent flow of information and correspondence between plaintiffs, print media and the Assembly of Members,
- (2) Prepares the financial report and proposes the budget to the Assembly of Members.
- (3) Prepares the rules for the complaints procedure.
- (4) Implements the Assembly's decisions.
- (5) Performs other duties

Article 8 – FUNDING

- (1) The affiliated print media contributes financially to the Press Council's budget.
- (2) For 2006 this contribution will amount to 800 euro for a daily, 1/6 of 800 euro for a weekly, 1/12 of 800 euro for a biweekly, 1/24 of 800 euro for a monthly and ¼ for news agencies. For each following year the contribution will increase with 3 times the rate of inflation in the Euro zone, as given by the European Central Bank for the previous year.
- (3) The contribution is paid in two trenches, the first of which is due on the 15th of January of each calendar year and the second on the 15th of July of each calendar year, to start with on the 1st of January of each calendar year.

Article 9 – PROCEDURES

- (1) A quorum of the Assembly exists when more than half of the members of the Press Council are present. The quorum must include either the chairperson or the vice chairperson.
- (2) All voting by the Assembly of Members shall follow the rules of secret simple majority voting of those present unless otherwise stipulated. In case no majority is reached, the Assembly director or the acting director in his absence has the casting vote.
- (3) The Press Council establishes and makes public its rules of procedures.
- (4) The Press Council establishes and makes public its complaint procedures. These shall be annex to this Statute.
- (5) Every habitual resident of Kosovo as defined in the Constitution and by the Law, especially those who feel defamed, has the right to file a complaint.
- (6) The Assembly will not accept complaints from one print media member of The Press Council to another member.
- (7) This Statute can only be changed by a majority of 75% of the Assembly Members.




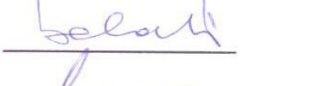
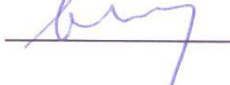
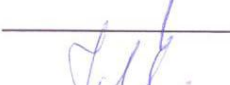

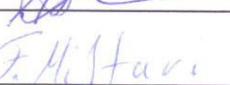
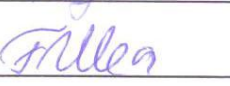
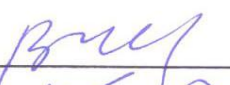


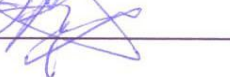
(8) The Press Council can only be dissolved by majority of 75% of the Assembly of Members. Any assets remaining after discharge of the liabilities of The Press Council shall be distributed to the body chosen by the Assembly.

(9) There are three (3) versions of this statute in English, Albanian and Serbian languages. The Albanian copy prevails.

(10) This Statute entered into force on 10 August 2005. This Statute was updated on 26 January 2010 adopted from members in accordance with the procedure defined in the Statute.

We hereby declare that we accept and agree with this Statute and will adhere to it.

Pristina, 11 May 2010.

<u>Media</u>	<u>First name and surname</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Epoka e Re	<u>Bunim Gërmaj</u>	
Lajm	<u>DRITON LATIFI</u>	
Alem	<u>NADIRA AVDIĆ-VLLASË</u>	
Koha Ditore	<u>AGRON BASHKAMI</u>	
Zëri	<u>Beharut Haliti</u>	
Bota Sot	<u>Myllëk Hurr</u>	
Yeni Donem		
Kosova Sot	<u>Jusuf Majo</u>	
Infopress	<u>Armi Azemi</u>	
M Magazine	<u>Fudil Miftari</u>	
Tribuna Shqiptare	<u>FITIM UKA</u>	
Sport	<u>BESNIK BASHKAMI</u>	
KosovaLive	<u>KELMEND HAPÇIU</u>	
KosovaPress	<u>Ferdil Bajraktari</u>	
InfoSot	<u>Fatmir Brohmari</u>	