

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003126/25
to the Commission
Thierry Mariani (P/E)
(29 July 2025)**

Subject: Arrest of Igor Popović, Deputy Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija

On 18 July 2025, Igor Popović, Deputy Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija, was arrested by the Pristina authorities, with a 30-day detention order. No infringements have been committed that justify this measure. The only thing he is accused of is publicly stating, at a commemoration, that the war crimes committed in July 1998 against Serbs and Roma have been attributed to the Kosovo Liberation Army — facts that are currently being examined by the Kosovo Specialist Chambers in The Hague.

Igor Popović's arrest is a clear violation of freedom of expression, an attempt at political intimidation and a serious breach of the rule of law. It is part of a broader context of persecution faced by the Serbian population in Kosovo and Metohija.

The Commission is a facilitator of the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue.

1. Can the Commission say whether it condemns the political arrest of Igor Popović and demands his immediate release?
2. Will it continue to provide financial and political support to the Pristina authorities while they violate human rights?
3. How will it preserve the credibility of the EU-facilitated dialogue if Pristina continues to act with impunity, undermining de-escalation and reconciliation efforts?

Submitted: 29.7.2025

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(4 December 2025)**

The Commission noted the recent arrest of Serbian Government Official, Mr Igor Popović, and his subsequent release on 8 August 2025 following a plea deal.

The Commission remains supportive of the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue facilitated by the High Representative/Vice-President and by the EU Special Representative under the Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/144.

In recent weeks, there have been arrests and deportations conducted by Kosovo authorities as well as arrests conducted by Serbian authorities. Such actions and similar escalatory rhetoric are unacceptable and must be avoided.

The Commission, together with the European External Action Service, urged Kosovo and Serbia to engage constructively in the EU-facilitated Dialogue. For both parties, it is only through the Dialogue that they can advance on their respective EU paths.
