ENE-003354/2021Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrellon behalf of the European Commission
(30.8.2021)

An agreement on regional representation was reached in the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue facilitated by the EU in 2012. Since reaching this agreement, Kosovo – for the first time - participates on its own account and speaks for itself in regional fora, provided it uses the wording Kosovo\* followed by the footnote: ‘Kosovo (\*) - This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence’.

According to the agreement, for regional fora where Kosovo’s participation pre-dates the 2012 agreement, a representative of UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) is to be invited to meetings organised within the framework of arrangements for which it is a signatory such as the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA).

The EU was informed of the interest of Kosovo to no longer be represented by UNMIK in regional fora. The EU stands ready to address this issue, including in the Dialogue on normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia, while bearing in mind that organisations such as CEFTA have their own structures, procedures and decision-making bodies, which also include other parties. Reaching a comprehensive legally-binding agreement on normalisation of relations therefore provides the best basis for overcoming legal representation issues.