

British Ambassador to Kosovo's roundtable speech at the Group for Legal and Political Studies

Good morning to you all,

Honourable Chairman Hyseni,

Honourable Chief Prosecutor of the State Lumezi,

Dear Mrs Loxha,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before I begin, I must say that I am sorry not to see any representatives of the Kosovo Judicial Council, but nonetheless I extend my greetings to them as well.

I am delighted to be here today at this roundtable organised by our implementing partner – Group for Legal and Political Studies (GLPS) – for the publication of their first report on the 'Latest developments in the justice system of Kosovo.'

The role of the civil society in democratic countries is key. This is why, I would like to believe that also in Kosovo, the constructive role of the civil society in general, and of the GLPS in particular, is highly appreciated.

This is the second round table I am participating in, and yet this day marks something special as well, as today is the opening of the electoral campaign.

I hope that, through this round table, we will send out relevant messages to political parties, which seem to have the rule of law as a priority.

Just as the GLPS report assesses, I want to echo as well the democratic and transparent practice the Prosecutorial Council has undertaken when drafting one of the most important Regulations on the appointment of chief prosecutors. Not only have the international partners been consulted with closely, the Council has even decided to hold, for the first time, a public hearing in order to take the civil society's assessment. This directly affects the increase of transparency and accountability.

Unfortunately, we have not seen the same readiness from the Kosovo Judicial Council. We remain committed to providing the same support equally to both Councils.

In this time of electoral campaign, I am delighted to hear and read that the rule of law, the fight against corruption and other negative phenomena are in the programs of almost every political party. It is not enough to only make statements about fighting corruption. The citizens of this country need to

hear concrete measures that political parties will undertake in this regard.

Until now, Kosovo accepted what it was served. I do not want to do this. However, I want to emphasize what is by now clear to everyone: Kosovo needs judicial reform! But, it has to come from your analysis of the context of your country. We will support you without any doubt!

I emphasize, that it is not right to talk too much about fighting corruption before the campaign and to say after the campaign that the executive body has no legal competencies in this regard.

GLPS has given tangible recommendations to the justice authorities. I would like to mention some of them: first, there needs to be efficiency, since 'Justice delayed is justice denied'; second, the Judicial Council and the Prosecutorial Council need to react strongly in cases where state prosecutors or judges are lynched publicly by powerful politicians; third, there need to be concrete results in the fight against corruption and high-profile organized crime.

However, democratic countries have three powers, where each one should check and supervise one another (checks and balances as we call it). Therefore, the executive and the legislative powers have the right to undertake legal initiatives for the improvement of the state of the justice system.

Finally, allow me to inform you that we have an emphasised interest in monitoring the process of appointing the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Chamber and the Basic Prosecution of Prishtina. So far, the Prosecutorial Council has shown readiness and willingness for this process to go as smooth as possible. We will monitor the process closely and we expect that candidates with most merit will take these highly important positions. This would be an important step towards achieving tangible results in the fight against high level corruption and organised crime.

I wish you success and thank you for your attention!

Academy NW seminar: Working towards social inclusion

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[World-leading advances in aerospace: apply for funding](#)

The world-leading UK aerospace industry has a turnover of £35 billion and directly employs 123,000 people. It needs to keep innovating to stay ahead in global markets.

Organisations are invited to express an interest in a £150 million annual competition that supports game-changing innovations in aerospace design, manufacture and propulsion. The best ideas will have a chance to apply for funding.

The investment is part of the £3.9 billion UK Aerospace Technology Institute programme, a partnership between government and industry managed by Innovate UK, the [Aerospace Technology Institute](#) and the [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](#).

Developing aircraft of the future

The competition is seeking expressions of interest in funding for industrial research or capital investment projects in line with the UK Aerospace Technology Strategy.

Priority areas include whole aircraft design and integration, aerostructures, advanced systems and propulsion technologies.

Project themes are detailed in the UK Aerospace Technology Strategy, and include:

- improving UK whole-aircraft design and system integration
- future-proofing advanced systems technologies in the UK – specifically, smart, connected and more electric aircrafts
- securing the UK's world-leading position in large, complex aviation structures, particularly wings
- developing more efficient propulsion technologies, including large turbofans

Competition information

- the competition opens on 7 October 2019, and the closing date is 23 October 2019
 - UK-based businesses, research and technology groups and academic institutions can be the project lead, depending on the project type
 - businesses could get up to 70% of their costs for industry-led research projects, or up to 50% of their costs for capital investment projects
 - an online briefing event will be held on 11 October 2019
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Tax offences lands engineering boss **11-year ban**

Abraham Mortimer Briscoe (40), formerly of Ashford Kent and now of Bromley, South London, was the sole director of the company Three Points Engineering Limited (3PE).

The company was incorporated in June 2011 and provided heating, air conditioning and gas engineering services in London and the South-East.

As a director, it was Abraham Briscoe's responsibility to ensure the engineering company paid the right amount of taxes. But through enquiries by HMRC and the Insolvency Service, it was proved that Abraham Briscoe had regularly caused 3PE to declare incorrect levels of tax liabilities due.

Over three years, between July 2011 and June 2014, Abraham Briscoe deliberately failed to declare circa £400,000 worth of income to the tax authorities. He also under declared tax liabilities of at least £127,000.

HMRC raised assessments for the unpaid tax and levied penalties against 3PE. However, this remained unpaid when the engineering company entered into liquidation in November 2018, following a petition to wind up the company by

HMRC.

In excess of £200,000 worth of tax was outstanding when 3PE entered into liquidation and yet investigators established that Abraham Briscoe had drawn down more than £1.2 million from the company in payments to bank accounts in which he personally had an interest.

On 9 September 2019 the Secretary of State accepted an 11-year disqualification undertaking from Abraham Briscoe, after he did not dispute that he had deliberately under declared the company's VAT liabilities.

Effective from 30 September 2019, Abraham Briscoe cannot, without the permission of the court, be involved in the formation, promotion or management of a company, directly or indirectly.

Jane Knight, Deputy Head of Insolvent Investigations Midlands & West, said:

Abraham Briscoe failed to declare 3PE's true liabilities to HMRC. Under-declaration of taxes due by a company deprives the exchequer of the monies needed to provide public services.

His disqualification means that he will not be able to run a limited company for eleven years and will help to protect HMRC from future losses. The Insolvency Service will not hesitate to pursue disqualification in such cases.

Abraham Mortimer Briscoe is of Bromley, Kent, and his date of birth is June 1973.

Three Points Engineering Limited (Company no. 07667345).

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of restrictions](#).

[Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct.](#)

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: