



COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

WORK PLAN 2007

Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare is one of the first committees which drafted and approved the annual work plan. Since January, Committee has been working in compliance with the work plan. In the agenda for this year Committee has foreseen process of reviewing and amending draft laws under its jurisdiction, monitoring the implementation of laws, visiting health and labor institutions as well as organizing public hearings. A work plan increased the need for cooperation between committee support staff and legal offices of the Government (legal offices from Ministry of Health, legal office from Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and legal office of the Prime Minister), considering that work plan is mainly based on the legislative strategy of the Government. Committee expects from the government to respect time lines for submitting draft laws as foreseen by the legislative strategy.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Between January and July, Committee organized 19 regular meetings. During these meetings committee members have been mainly focused on the process of reviewing and amending draft laws, hearing government officials who were invited to report in front of Committee, reviewing reports from health institutions and other meetings with local and international experts. Committee meetings were open for the public and were followed by monitors from different organizations and sometimes by media representatives.

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The Parliamentary Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare is one of the functional committees of the Assembly of Kosovo. Committee consists of 14 members representing different political parties of the Assembly. Committee is engaged on establishing and following the implementation of policies for development and efficient functioning of health service in Kosovo. Committee is determined on compiling a general strategy of health protection for people of Kosovo and others who are temporarily living here, by encouraging application of international standards for health services and integration of our health institutions in international associations. Committee covers activities of two ministries: Ministry of



Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. Draft laws submitted in the Assembly which regulate issues related to health, labor or social welfare are reviewed and amended by Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare. Until now, committee has reviewed and adopted 21

draft laws which regulate issues under committee jurisdiction. Out of these laws, 13 are in competence of Ministry of Health while 8 are in competence of Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. SRSG has promulgated 18 laws approved by the Committee.

REVIEW OF DRAFT LAWS

During the seven month period Committee reviewed seven draft laws: Draft Law on Blood Transfusion, Blood control and its products, Draft Law for prevention and fighting against infectious diseases, Draft Law on Food, Draft Law on Labor, Draft Law on the Right and Freedom of Association, Draft Law on Strikes, Draft Law on

Labor Inspectorate. Among the seven laws in procedure, two of them have passed the second reading after being voted with all the amendments provided by Committee (Draft Law on blood transfusion, blood control and its products, Draft Law for prevention and fighting against infectious diseases). Three of these draft laws are in the proc-

ess of amending and preparing for the second reading (Draft Law on Labor, Draft Law on Food and Draft Law on Labor Inspectorate). On the process of reviewing draft laws, Committee consulted several local and international experts hired with the assistance of organizations supporting the work of Parliamentary Committees.

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While reviewing draft laws, parliamentary committee have the right to organize public hearings. Hearings are organized when Committee members believe that hearings might help them to more efficiently amend draft laws in procedure. Therefore, with the aim of improving the quality of draft laws submitted in the Assembly, Committee organizes public hearings, inviting experts who can provide their expertise on the amending of a specific draft law, but also representatives of non government organizations, and ordinary citizens affected by the law.

Between January and July 2007, Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare organized two public hearings. These two public hearings covered four laws that are being reviewed by Committee. The first public hearing has been organized for Draft Law on Blood Transfusion

PUBLIC HEARINGS



(09.01.2007) while the second hearing (16.02.2007) covered the following draft laws: Draft Law on Labor, Draft Law on the Right and Freedom of Association and Draft Law on Strikes. The Committee decided to organize a second hearing for three draft laws, because they cover similar fields, therefore experts and other people invited could provide their contribution for three draft laws. During this

hearing, over 27 participants have been invited (representatives of institutions, associations, non government organizations and independent experts). The majority of people invited, responded and participated in the hearing and meanwhile brought on the table their concerns and specific amendments. Amendments were submitted in writing and reviewed by the Committee, and some of

them were incorporated in the final reports of amendments for each law.

Among the most important amendments, were ones presented by KEK Union, PTK Union, Kosovar Alliance for Business, association of pensioners, office for gender equality etc. Public hearings have been considered very productive due to the large number of participants and good quality amendments proposed. In an effort to simplify the process of organizing public hearing, recently Committee support staff in cooperation with NDI has prepared a data base containing contact information's from experts and organizations related to the issues under Committee jurisdiction. Committee will continue to organize public hearing whenever considers it necessary with the aim of consulting experts and general public and therefore improve the quality of laws.

FIELD VISITS

Until July 2007, the Committee organized two field visits in health and social institutions. On March 13th, Committee members organized a visit to the Family Health Center in Prishtina, with the aim of getting informed about the work and challenges that this institution is facing. Also, on the 3rd of April Committee members visited Handikos in an effort to see and understand closely concerns of disabled persons and meanwhile inform them about the future measures that will be undertaken by the Committee on proceeding of new laws for protection of the rights of disabled people. The Committee is planning to organize several field visits until the end of the year, and visit other social and health institutions in different Municipalities of Kosova.

COMMITTEE FUTURE ACTIVITIES

In the upcoming months, Committee will be engaged in reviewing and amending the remaining draft laws in procedure. The Committee members hope that by the end of the year they will be able to complete the process of amending Draft Law on Labor, Draft Law on Strikes, Draft Law on the Right and Freedom of Association, Draft Law on Narcotic Medicaments, psychotropic substances and precursors, Draft Law on professional rehabilitation and employments of disabled persons, draft law on amending and completing the law on social assistance scheme. The Committee will cooperate with local and international organizations, to increase the visibility towards the citizens and continue its work on monitoring the activities of executive branch.

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS

During the last year, the Committee monitored implementation of Law on Health, and came up with a report which included several recommendations that were presented to the Assembly. Report has been approved by the Assembly members and its recommendations were forwarded to the Ministry of Health in effort to improve the implementation of Law on Health. Considering that one of the main functions of the

Committee is to conduct oversight on the implementation of laws by the respective Ministries, Committee was focused mainly on verifying the issuance and compliance of subsidiary legislation of Ministries deriving from the laws. Assisted by NDI, Committee conducted a research of compliance of subsidiary legislation with basic laws for the following laws" Law on Social Assistance Scheme, Methodology of determining

level of basic pension in Kosova and specifying date for ensuring the pension and basic law on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Environment. Based on the findings deriving from this research, the Committee will send several recommendations to the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in effort to improve quality of subsidiary legislation, their issuance on time and compliance with the basic laws approved by the Assembly.