



# PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

## Press Release

### **Kosovo Police Responsible for Protection of the Gazimestan Monument**

Following a decision taken by North Atlantic Council, on 18<sup>th</sup> March, in the presence of official representatives of KFOR, EULEX and the Kosovo Police, the lead responsibility for the protection of the Gazimestan monument was handed over from KFOR to the Kosovo Police. This transfer of lead responsibility reflects the confidence that NATO and its KFOR contributing partner nations have in the capability of the Kosovo Police to perform this important task.

The transfer of lead responsibility for the Gazimestan monument from KFOR to the Kosovo Police has been carefully prepared and exercised by KFOR, Kosovo Police, and EULEX. Leaders of all relevant institutions and from all affected communities, as well as of interested international organizations in Kosovo were consulted on this important step. In executing this new task, the Kosovo Police will be monitored, mentored and advised by EULEX.

KFOR is prepared to support the Kosovo Police to guarantee the security of this site, in accordance with its mandate to ensure a safe and secure environment in Kosovo. KFOR will also monitor the security of the site through patrols and aerial reconnaissance as part of the exercise of its responsibilities under its mandate in Kosovo.

The transfer of this security task from KFOR to the Kosovo Police represents an important first milestone in the process of transitioning to the Kosovo Police the lead responsibility for the protection of cultural and religious sites in Kosovo.

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