

THE FIRST WORD

Why a gazette

Every organization whose first instrument is its voice sooner or later feels the need to have its written word as well. The IX Electoral Congress gave us the mandate, but it also left us a duty that is written in no resolution: not to let our work dissolve in the short memory of the daily news.

This gazette is born precisely of that need. It is not a showcase of the leadership, nor an album of memories. It is the register of what is done in the name of the workers, set down on paper so that it can be read, examined, and answered for.

In this first issue we return to the eleventh of July, to the hall where our delegates gathered together with our friends from Brussels, from Tirana, from Ankara, from Sarajevo and from Washington. There three resolutions were adopted that are the compass of the five years ahead. This gazette bears the name Sindikalisti, the trade unionist: the one who carries the voice of others and does not keep silent when silence is easier.

From this issue on, the gazette will come to you regularly. It will bring what is achieved and what is not, because a voice that speaks only of achievements soon loses its credibility. Its pages remain open to every member union, every regional office and every worker who has something to say.

We are here to listen to the world of labor, to represent it and to demand what is its due.

Prof. Dr. Atdhe Hykolli

President of the Union of Independent Trade Unions of Kosova

THE IX ELECTORAL CONGRESS OF BSPK



The hall of the IX Electoral Congress, Hotel Sirius, Prishtina, 11 July 2026 — the delegates of BSPK

Prishtina, 11 July 2026 — On a day that will remain inscribed in the memory of Kosovo's trade union movement, the Union of Independent Trade Unions of Kosova held its IX Electoral Congress, under the meaningful motto "Solidarity unites us, dialogue strengthens us!"

In the solemn hall of the Hotel Sirius in Prishtina gathered the delegates of BSPK, distinguished guests from the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo and representatives of international trade union confederations, to give the largest workers' organization of Kosovo its direction, its vision and its strength for the five years ahead.

At the height of the proceedings, the delegates unanimously re-elected Prof. Dr. Atdhe Hykolli at the helm of BSPK for the 2026–2031 mandate — a unanimous vote of confidence testifying to the internal unity of the organization, the appreciation of the work accomplished and the unwavering trust in the chosen path of social dialogue, solidarity and the uncompromising defense of workers' rights.

Addressing the delegates, President Hykolli stressed that this trust is not a privilege but a responsibility — toward every working woman and man of Kosovo, toward the dignity of labor and toward the future of social dialogue in the country. The Congress approved all items of the agenda and the three programmatic resolutions that will guide BSPK in the new mandate.

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The President of BSPK, Prof. Dr. Atdhe Hykolli, addressing the delegates

Unity as foundation, resolutions as compass: the Congress adopts the programmatic documents of the new mandate

The IX Electoral Congress was not merely an electoral act — it was a declaration of the organizational maturity and the strategic vision of BSPK. The delegates adopted the three fundamental resolutions that outline the programmatic axis of the five years ahead.

The Resolution on Membership Growth and Organizational Strengthening unfolds the commitment to a broader, younger and more inclusive trade unionism, reaching every sector and every workplace, making solidarity not a slogan but a daily practice.

The Resolution and Conclusions of the IX Congress summarize the positions of the organization on the challenges of the time — from wages and safety at work to digitalization, artificial intelligence and the new international standards of decent work.

The Congress adopted the Report on Work (2021–2026), the Financial Report (2021–2025) and the Report of the Oversight Commission. On the statutory plane, the new Statute of BSPK was adopted (no. 124, 11.07.2026), harmonized with the constitutions of ETUC and ITUC, together with the Rules of Procedure of the Congress (no. 125) — opening the way to the constitution of the new bodies within 45 days.



The Working Presidency leading the proceedings of the working session



The national anthem at the solemn opening of the Congress



The delegates of BSPK during the proceedings of the Congress



The front row of distinguished guests and international delegations



Moments of warmth in the corridors — dialogue that begins with human understanding

The institutions of the country and international trade unionism alongside BSPK



The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, greeting the IX Electoral Congress of BSPK



Kolë Nikollaj, President of KSSH (Albania) — fraternal greetings

The importance of the IX Congress was affirmed by the presence of distinguished guests. Prime Minister Albin Kurti underlined the irreplaceable role of BSPK in the building of a social and just state, and the readiness of the institutions to deepen the dialogue with the world of labor.

Fraternal greetings were conveyed by Peter Scherrer (ETUC), Kolë Nikollaj (KSSH), Hamza Öksüz (Memur-Sen), Selvedin Šatorović (BiH), Hamdi Rashiti (North Macedonia), Asllan Zeneli (Montenegro), Merita Yildiz (HAK-İŞ) and Brunilda Hylviu (Solidarity Center, USA) — the great trade union family alongside BSPK.

The guests praised the democratic maturity of the Congress and the clarity of the resolutions, convinced that BSPK enters the new mandate more united than ever.

THE SUPPORT OF ETUC AND ITUC



Peter Scherrer (ETUC, Brussels) greeting the delegates of the IX Congress — the voice of European trade unionism alongside BSPK



The video message of Luc Triangle, General Secretary of the ITUC, addressed to the delegates of the IX Congress

The voice of international solidarity resounded from the rostrum

The round of greetings brought to the rostrum the representatives of sister confederations from the region and beyond, while the General Secretary of the ITUC, Luc Triangle, greeted the Congress with a special video message — proof that the voice of Kosovo's workers is heard in every center of world trade unionism.



Hamza Öksüz, Vice President of Memur-Sen (Türkiye), delivering his greeting



Selvedin Šatorović (Bosnia and Herzegovina) greeting the Congress



Hamdi Rashiti (SSM, North Macedonia) delivering his fraternal address



Asllan Zeneli (Montenegro) — the solidarity of neighboring unions



Merita Yıldız (HAK-İŞ, Türkiye) addressing the delegates



Brunilda Hylviu (Solidarity Center, USA) greeting the Congress

From Prishtina to Brussels: the new mandate begins with firm steps

BSPK at the High-Level Debate on EU Enlargement. Only days after the Congress, the President of BSPK took part in the High-Level Debate on the Enlargement of the European Union held in Brussels. In the meetings held, the President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Mr. Boland, and the Commissioner for Enlargement, Ms. Kos, expressed their readiness for close cooperation with BSPK — a direct recognition of the role of Kosovo's trade unions on the country's European path and of the voice of our workers at the tables where the future of the continent is decided.

The Executive Presidency prepares the constitution of the Governing Council. On 21 July 2026, the President convened the Executive Presidency, which set the steps for the constitutive session of the Governing Council, within the statutory term of forty-five days after the Congress. The new bodies of BSPK are being established with statutory precision, institutional continuity and a clear will to work.

The voice of BSPK on the issues of the day. Through official communiqués, BSPK raised its voice for the protection of workers during the heat wave and against insufficient inspection capacities; for the implementation of the minimum wage as a legal and moral obligation; for the new ILO Convention on decent work in the platform economy; and for the necessity of concluding a General Collective Agreement at the national level.

The three workshops of 2026. In implementation of the resolutions of the Congress, BSPK is preparing the program of three thematic workshops: on social dialogue and the General Collective Agreement, on membership growth and organizational strengthening, and on the future of work in the era of digitalization and artificial intelligence. The word of the Congress is becoming deed.

The constitution of the Governing Council and of the commissions. On 28 July 2026 the electoral phase opened by the IX Congress was completed. The Statutory Commission and the Oversight Commission were constituted and elected their chairs, while the Governing Council, meeting online, elected the Vice President of BSPK, Ms. Edita Azemi-Halili. At the same session it was decided unanimously to admit the Trade Union Federation of Radio Television of Kosovo into BSPK, in the presence of its president, Mr. Veton Rugova. With the constitution of its bodies, the new five-year mandate begins its work with a full structure.



A moment from the meeting with the Commissioner for Enlargement, Ms. Kos, at the High-Level Debate in Brussels



The President of BSPK with the President of the EESC, Mr. Boland, and Commissioner Ms. Kos

Kongresi

“Solidarity unites us, dialogue strengthens us!”

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