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KFOR MISSION

The NATO-led KFOR mission is to contribute to maintaining a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all communities in Kosovo, as mandated by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of 1999. In carrying out its activities, NATO cooperates and assists the United Nations, the European Union and other international actors, as appropriate, to support the development of a stable and peaceful Kosovo. KFOR also supports the development of professional, democratic and multi-ethnic security structures in Kosovo.

REFLECTIONS FROM KFOR COMMANDER



The Kosovo Force mission is an invaluable provider of security in the region, and the longest-running deployment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. When I was approached by my superiors, I was both humbled and honored to be selected to be the first Hungarian Force Commander of a NATO deployment. However, when I received the flag from Admiral Robert P. Burke on the 15th of October, 2021, I could never have imagined how complex this assignment would be.

According to the United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244, KFOR's primary role and mission is to ensure the safe and secure environment, and the freedom of movement for everyone in Kosovo. This has been said, time and time again, but to fully understand the effort behind it, you need to look at the Soldiers and the civilians working in KFOR. The men and women ensure this commitment with all of their efforts, and I have to say that throughout my military career, I have never seen a more motivated group of individuals. Their actions speak louder than any words that could be conveyed, and their resourcefulness and initiative staggers even the most experienced military leaders. Any success that KFOR has achieved over the last year can only be accredited to the combined efforts of these individuals, and I am very thankful for their unwavering support.

The level of international cooperation is above and beyond anything I have ever experienced before, both within the organisation of KFOR, and with the other international actors present in Kosovo. The 28 nations – 20 NATO members and 8 contributing nations work together in harmony and in unison, and the mix of experiences bring about a unique solution to any challenge that we have had to face. The Regional Commands manage their

specific areas well utilising all tools at their disposal. This mix of kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities manages to ensure a proportionate response from the smallest scale incidents to some exceptionally challenging events.

Together with the other main international actors that KFOR worked with, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the EULEX mission, the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, and the EU Special Representative's office we have an amazing community. As their objectives are in line with KFOR's, we managed to work together day-by-day, shoulder-to-shoulder for the betterment of Kosovo and its population, and I can safely say that we performed our duty to the best of our abilities, with all the tools at our disposal.

As we strived to be a flexible, but credible security provider, our cooperation with the Institutions in Kosovo was always a priority. From on-the-ground specialist liaison teams all the way up to the ministerial and presidential level, key leader engagements became a daily routine for our staff. I firmly believe that the personal touch that went into these meetings often tipped the balance in favor of success and stability.

The beautiful scenery of Kosovo and its people was not lost on me. Travelling from engagement to engagement, I often had the opportunity to lose myself looking out the window and seeing the everyday life of the local population, or the breathtaking views of the mountains, the lakes, or the countryside. This location has a unique appeal to it, and it is safe to say that this heritage is worth protecting.

The motto of the XXVI KFOR Command Period was DUTY – RELIABILITY – COMMITMENT. This was decided in advance of coming here, but I

wholeheartedly believe that all three words, all three pillars had their meaning deepened here for everyone.

DUTY – Our deployment with KFOR was not just a job, not just another assignment for us to finish. All members of my command team considered it their personal duty to do everything here to the best of our abilities, and rise to the opportunity that was granted to us.

RELIABILITY – The trustworthy nature of the soldiers wearing the KFOR badge became a symbol of trust among the local population. Upholding this great tradition was paramount towards success, and it was this reliability that ensured our continued trust.

COMMITMENT – There can be no question that our commitment to the stability of the situation in Kosovo took precedence over everything else. No personal issues, no national business was ever more important than KFOR's commitment to peace and security.

In conclusion, I would like to point out the importance of continuity. We are reminded time and time again of the generations of soldiers and civilians who have worked tirelessly in accordance to three pillars above over the last 23 years. It is on their shoulders, that we managed to build our legacy, and together, we are determined to ensure that the safety and the security built here continues to be long-lasting.

Major General Ferenc KAJÁRI
KFOR XXVI Commander





KFOR DEPUTY COMMANDER'S LETTER

My appointment as DCOM KFOR marked a break after eight years of Italian leadership of the KFOR mission while also serving as an ideal bridge for the forthcoming Italian Commander. In this regard, it has been an honor for me to continue the tradition of the Italian Generals serving at KFOR, and of course, it has been a privilege to represent my Country as the senior ranking Italian Officer in Kosovo. My first deployment in Kosovo dates back twenty years. The young Captain and pilot who served at Gjakova airport in 2002 would never have imagined he would have become the 31st Deputy Commander of KFOR.

So many incredible changes have taken place in Kosovo during this time at many different levels: first of all, the general security situation. Every Officer and Soldier who served or is currently serving at KFOR should be rightly proud of his/her contribution. The stability in this area, one of our tasks according to the UN mandate, is a success because of the commitment and daily work of every KFOR member, both past and present. A collective effort under the NATO Flag.

As part of my responsibilities as KFOR Deputy Commander, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to nearly every corner of the region, visiting on a regular basis the various Liaison and Monitoring Teams (LMT). These small fundamental groups, made up of professional individuals from many different Nations, have proved to be an essential resource for the mission, owing in particular to their unique connection with the local population. The feedback I was able to provide to KFOR Headquarters after my trips provided the whole Command Group with a useful tool in the decision-making process.



As the direct reporting Officer of the HSG Commander, I have personally valued the central role played by the various organisations supporting the troops throughout a wide range of day-by-day activities and tasks such as real life support, logistics, administration and morale & welfare activities. Among the various functions of KFOR Deputy Commander, I have the task of verifying the training activities conducted by the units on the ground. In this capacity I have witnessed firsthand the dedication and competencies of the Staff Officers involved in the preparation of these activities, aimed



at maintaining a high level of operational readiness of KFOR Soldiers and units. During the exercises conducted by the Kosovo Force, I witnessed the advanced training of the units on the ground and the interoperability among the personnel of the various Troop Contributing Nations.

I would like to acknowledge Major General KAJÁRI, twenty-sixth KFOR Commander, for his superb leadership. I have genuinely enjoyed every single moment during the eleven months of our cooperation together. He has been an incredible source of inspiration for me and the goals, which my staff and I achieved during my time, were due in no small part to the guidance of

General KAJÁRI. The two Staffs supporting the Commander and the Deputy Commander have created a brilliant and productive working environment, reinforcing the friendship between the Hungarian and the Italian contingents. My final thoughts and prayers go to our fellow comrades who lost their lives while serving at KFOR. They will never be forgotten.

*Brigadier General Luca PIPERNI
KFOR XXVI Deputy Commander*

KFOR CHIEF OF STAFF'S LETTER

Our KFOR Team is strong and I am proud to have served as your Chief of Staff. I am both amazed and impressed by the extraordinary cooperation among the 28 nations that serve in the mission here. Our common purpose unites us and it is a special bond among our profession to facilitate mission success. As I describe my time here I will explain in a way that nests with Commander's KFOR intent: Duty, Reliability, and Commitment.

Duty in the Kosovo area of operations is a serious endeavor. I have seen and recognise the dedication to duty throughout my travels in theatre. This is demonstrated over and over again as I survey the force as the Chief of Staff. This superb dedication to duty pushes us to be the best leaders we can be. This duty has born an enduring peacekeeping mission respected around the world. Reliability has been an important watchword during this rotation in KFOR. Our personnel showed resiliency under conditions of hardship during a tenuous time of ethnic tension. The steadfast focus and selfless service show all who encounter KFOR why we are so effective in our accomplishment of mission. This long-term reliability has given youth in our area of operations hope and a better future.

Commitment to the KFOR mission is evident in every brief, patrol and training exercise we execute. We have shown all of Kosovo commitment to the mission and then some. This commitment is universal and includes mitigation of threats throughout our area of operations. This has resulted in KFOR being the most successful long-term NATO mission in its history. For the whole KFOR Team which includes Officers, Soldiers and Civilians I express my gratitude and appreciation for your dedication to the mission. In addition, we can never forget the sacrifice and hardship your families





face while you serve here. They deserve our respect and thanks for the steadfast support in your service. KFOR Leaders of every rank should recognise that we are all blessed by tremendous support from family, comrades in arms and our nations.

*Brigadier General
John Bozicevic
KFOR XXVI
Chief of Staff*



KFOR COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S LETTER

I have to start with a confession: I did not think that as a novice sergeant, serving in the first mission of my career in Kosovo that I would return to as the Command Sergeant Major of this vital KFOR mission in the Balkans precisely 20 years later.

After completing my mission, it is time to reflect on the past ten months during which I was able to help and support the first Hungarian Commander in the history of KFOR, Major General Ferenc Kajári. This year was significant not only in the history of KFOR but also in terms of Hungary and the Hungarian Defense Forces. For the first time, a Hungarian commander led this crucial mission, and for the first time supported by a Hungarian Senior Enlisted Leader.

Initially, my goal was to bring together the Senior Enlisted Leaders of the 28 contributing nations in order to support the Commander's vision and intent. Along with the leadership of the Senior National Representatives of the 28 countries, the dedicated service of the Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers laid the foundations for the achievements and successes of the last year. I can proudly say that every single Soldier has served and continues to serve the Kosovo Force with humility, commitment, and dedication. In doing so they have ensured that the principle tasks of providing a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all communities in Kosovo are achieved to the best of our abilities.

Through our daily interactions with the local population who live here, we get confirmation that our Soldiers serve the people of Kosovo with professionalism, enthusiasm and humility thus ensuring the acceptance and enhancing the reputation of NATO and KFOR. The achievements of



KFOR over the last 23 years prove that even though road paved might have bumpy at times the journey was worthwhile, since today there is peace and security in Kosovo, one of the main pillars of which is the presence of KFOR. After taking over as a KFOR Command Sergeant Major, the effects of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic prevailed, which imposed limitations and made the execution of everyday tasks more difficult. Even after the pandemic crisis subsided, everyday activities did not become more straightforward. The Russian invasion of Ukrainian and its adverse economic effects presented the region and KFOR with additional challenges. However, because of the dedicated and selfless work of the entire staff of KFOR, these impacts were managed effectively.

If I had to highlight one thing that I am particularly proud of, it would be the blood donations made by KFOR personnel. Unfortunately, they had to be suspended entirely during the pandemic. However when it was possible to resume them, three successful blood donation events were organised during KFOR XXVI, highlighting the close cooperation with the Kosovo Blood Transfusion Centre. Through this strong gesture of altruism, KFOR demonstrated its unwavering commitment and support to the local population, local government and non-government agencies. Other endeavors such as CIMIC activities along with the donations from various nations greatly benefit the local population and deserve mention. During our time, there were numerous joint international sporting and team-building events organised, had a hugely positive effect, strengthening ties and establishing close relations between nations.

I am confident that KFOR XXVI has successfully built on the reputation created by our predecessors. However, KFOR's activities do not stop with the conclusion of KFOR XXVI, we must stay the path our predecessors paved and continue to support and help the local institutions and organisations, but above all, the people who live here. Kosovo is a beautiful land, who's warm and friendly people are deserving of the devoted service our Soldiers.

Unfortunately, I could not finish the mission as planned due to a car accident. Fortunately, CSM Ferenc TENK, took over the duties of the Command Sergeant Major for the remaining period and successfully carried forward the results achieved together.

Finally, as a Command Sergeant Major of KFOR XXVI, I am proud that I was able to serve with such an outstanding community of dedicated and professional Soldiers and was a part of the "footprint" left behind by the Hungarian-led KFOR XXVI. As reflected in KFOR XXVI's motto: DUTY, RELIABILITY, COMMITMENT! This humble dedication is what KFOR and the soldiers serving here currently represent.

It is not easy to continue the above lines nor is it easy to follow in the footsteps of a man like CSM Tamás ZSIROS. His contribution and tireless work have greatly contributed to the success of KFOR over the last year. He was instrumental in the organisation of numerous sporting, health-related and community-shaping events such as "The Santa Clause Charity Run", Blood Donations and the KFOR International Day. At the monthly Command Senior Enlisted Leadership meeting and Command Sergeant Major meetings, which the KFOR Commander enjoyed attending, the "Soldier of the Month" and "NCO of the Month" certificates were presented. These awards and the accompanying Commander and CSM coins are prestigious awards, which are highly valued.

It was both a great challenge and a great honor to take over as Command Sergeant Major of KFOR XXVI from CSM Tamás ZSIROS. As he wrote earlier, I also must make a confession, when we began our mission together, I certainly did not think I would ever be the KFOR Command Sergeant Major. Although we have helped and supported each other numerous times during this Mission, taking on the role was still a huge challenge for me. Fortunately, the excellent community spirit and relationships fostered during the first ten



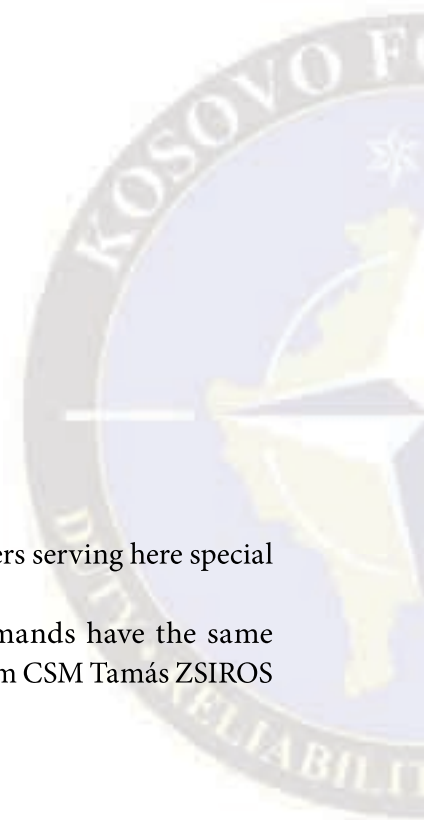


months have helped me to carry on the work he started. I owe him a debt of gratitude for paving the way for the rest of the time. I also have experienced first-hand, the willingness, dedication, and helpfulness of the Soldiers from each contributing Nation. It is the tireless work and commitment of these Soldiers that make NATO's largest Mission KFOR what it really is. Without them, the much talked about „Safe and Secure Environment, and Freedom of Movement“ would never have been created and would not be sustainable. I have experienced that „DUTY, RELIABILITY, COMMITMENT“, is not only a well-sounding motto, but the real driving force behind KFOR XXVI. These values not only contribute to a successful period in the history of KFOR, but also help to improve the life of the people

living here. This is what makes KFOR and the Soldiers serving here special and worthy of recognition.

Finally I can only hope that future KFOR Commands have the same dedicated, professional and loyal comrades with whom CSM Tamás ZSIROS and I had the honour and privilege of serving with.

Sergeant Major Tamás ZSIROS
KFOR XXVI Command Sergeant Major
 &
Sergeant Major Ferenc TENK
KFOR XXVI Command Sergeant Major









Today KFOR XXVI has around 3,700 troops provided by 27 nations Allied and partner Nations who continue to work towards maintaining a safe and secure environment and freedom for all people in Kosovo. It is this multinational effort that makes the mission as success. The motto of the XXVI KFOR Command Period was DUTY – RELIABILITY – COMMITMENT.

North Atlantic Council Visit to KFOR HQ



DUTY

*That which one is morally
or legally obliged to do.*

Our deployment with KFOR was not just a job, not just another assignment for us to finish. All members of my command team considered it their personal duty to do everything here to the best of our abilities, and rise to the opportunity that was granted to us.



Hungarian soldiers on Patrol





Soldiers from the Greek Guard during Immediate Reaction Force training

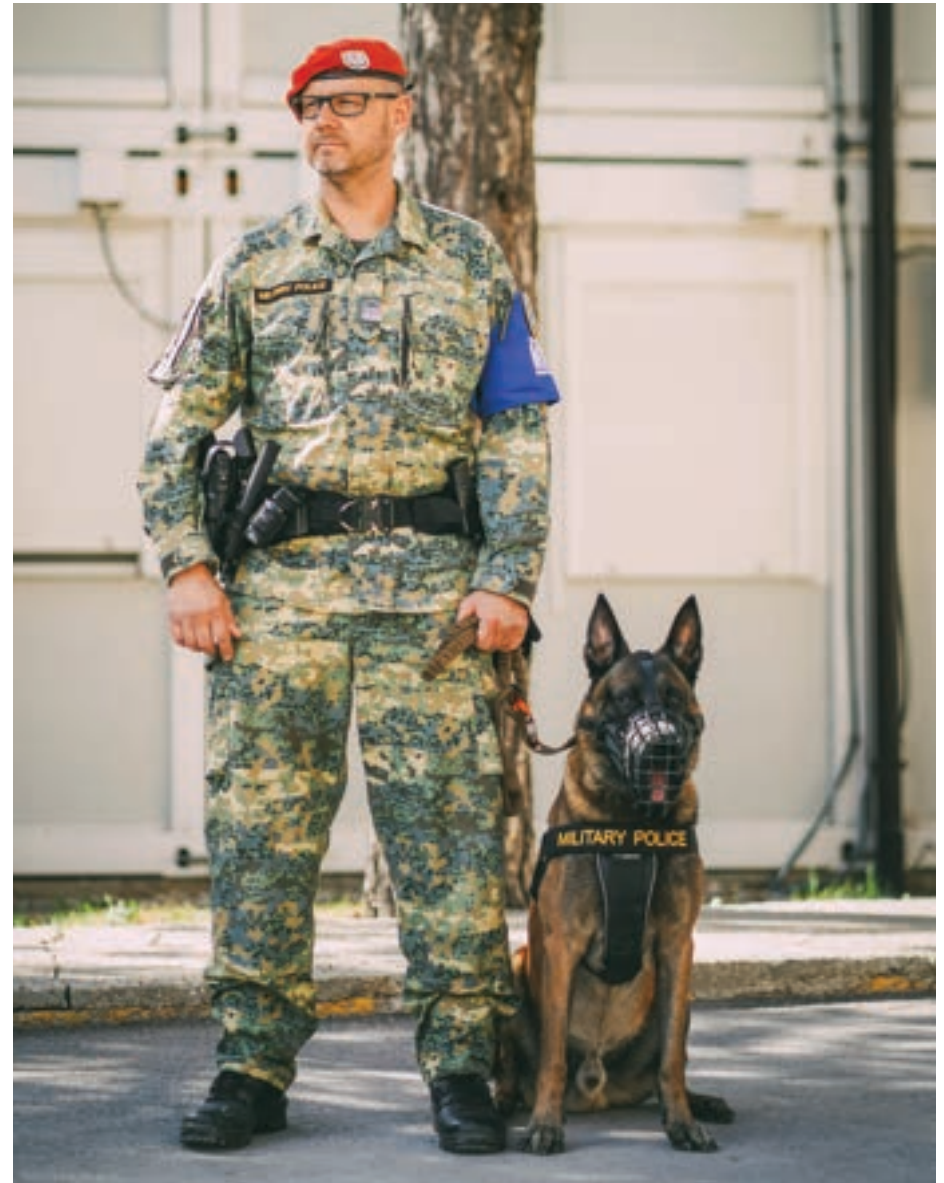


Carabinieri from Multinational Specialized Unit on Patrol



US Military Police on Patrol in Camp Bondsteel

**Austrian soldier from IMP on Patrol in CFC with Ares,
6 year old Military Police dog**





Austrian APC crossing a river



Turkish Soldiers conduct a foot Patrol in RC-East



Hungarian Liaison and Monitoring Team



DCOM visiting Slovenian LMT



DCOM gets a brief from Swiss LMT in Prizren



Italian LMT outside KFOR HQ



Turkish LMT donation





Multinational EOD Team prepare a conventional munition disposal



US and Austrian EOD Team prepare for munition disposal



COS presents Certificates of Appreciation to Soldiers from Ukraine and the United States



Munition disposal operation of obsolete ammunition near GOLES, KOSOVO

COM KFOR on Heli Patrol





Rotation of British Contingent



Polish soldiers conduct a Patrol after Heli Insertion



US Black Hawk Helicopter



Soldiers from KTRBN conduct Heli drills



Soldiers from North Macedonia on exercise at Camp Villaggio Italia



Multinational Heli patrol



Emergency Responders during MASCAL Exercise in KFOR HQ



Italian Medics tend to an injured Soldier during MASCAL exercise in KFOR HQ

Fire Service conduct a chemical decontamination exercise in KFOR HQ





Soldiers conducting Fire Phobia Drills



Instructors from KTRBN conduct CRC Training







RELIABILITY

The quality of being trustworthy or of performing consistently well.

The trustworthy nature of the soldiers wearing the KFOR badge became a symbol of trust among the local population. Upholding this great tradition was paramount towards success, and it was this reliability that ensured our continued trust.



Austrian Contingent during CRC training exercise



Hungarian soldiers from KTRBN on exercise



Austrian soldiers during exercise



A Danish soldier during exercise Frozen Sabre



A protestor confronts Italian Soldiers during Exercise Frozen Saber



Swiss Freedom of Movement Detachment on the move



A Polish soldier keeps watch on exercise



German Soldier fires his pistol on the range



**Soldier from US contingent
conducts range practices**



Soldiers from German contingent conduct range practices



Soldiers from German and Austrian contingents conduct range practices



Swiss medics conduct a MEDEVAC training exercise



MEDEVAC training exercise



CIMIC donation of Fire Fighting equipment from US Contingent



CIMIC donation of Fire Fighting equipment from the Hungarian Contingent



MSU CIMIC donation



Canadian CIMIC donation to a local school





COM KFOR thanks COS for his service

Carabinieri from MSU in Ceremonial Dress



Armenian Medal Parade

HSG Change of Command Ceremony in KFOR HQ





Moldovan soldiers in Camp Villaggio Italia



Polish Medal Parade on Camp Novo Selo



Greek Medal Parade in Camp Film City



DCOM at KFOR HQ Medal Parade



COM KFOR at Croatian Medal Parade

DEU Medal Parade in Camp Film City







COMMITMENT

*Being faithfully dedicated
to a cause.*

There can be no question that our commitment to the stability of the situation in Kosovo took precedence above everything else. No personal issues, no national business was ever more important than KFOR's commitment to peace and security.



COM JFCNP, COM KFOR and NALT Director greet NAC Visit to KFOR HQ



COM KFOR at NAC Conference

COM KFOR and SACEUR at Slatina APOD





COM KFOR receives DSACEUR



COM KFOR briefs representatives from the Troop Contributing Nations

COM KFOR meeting with SNRs





DCOM and Judges of the KFOR Photo Competition



**DCOM presents award to the Winner of KFOR Photo Competition
to member of Swiss Coy**



GENAD Conference held in MSU

Command Senior Enlisted Leader meeting





Polish soldier receives a Letter of Appreciation from CSM & COM KFOR



Italian NCO receives a coin from COM KFOR



Carabinieri NCO from MSU receives Letter of Appreciation from CSM



Lithuanian soldiers from JLSG



Blood Donation at KFOR HQ



Santa Charity run KFOR HQ



Irish Charity relay march KFOR HQ

Soldiers take part in a Mountain march in RC-East



Latvian soldiers take part in Death and Glory challenge
in Camp Novo Selo



Intercontingent competition in RC-West





KFOR Invictus Challenge at KFOR HQ





Murph Challenge at KFOR HQ





KFOR soldiers at the DANCON March



KFOR soldiers at the DANCON March





Greek Guard at sunset



International Women's Day in KFOR HQ



Finnish soldier at Paralympics opening ceremony



COM KFOR greets children at International Children's Day in KFOR HQ



Danish soldier at International Children's Day in KFOR HQ



Super Fun in a Swiss Super Puma at KFOR International Day in KFOR HQ



Irish piper at KFOR International Day in KFOR HQ



Slovenian stand at KFOR International Day in KFOR HQ



Turkish National Day in KFOR HQ



Croatian stand at KFOR International Day in KFOR HQ



Soldiers from Montenegro and North Macedonia stands at KFOR International Day in KFOR HQ



Albanian stand at KFOR International Day in KFOR HQ



A sample of some of the delicious cuisine created by Hungarian Master Chefs in KFOR HQ



Pristina under snow







Kosovo from the air





Kosovo landscape

Kosovo landscape





28 TROOP CONTRIBUTING NATIONS



NATO (20) Nations within KFOR: Albania, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Non-NATO (8) Nations: Armenia, Austria, Finland, Ireland, Moldova, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine.

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