

February 10, 2019

Dear Minister Majko,

Germin highly appreciates your work regarding the Albanian Diaspora and your continued cooperation with our organization. Beyond your activity as a Minister, we also have tremendous respect for your work since the war in Kosovo, and as a person with high integrity.

Having this in consideration, we are writing this letter regarding some of the concerns that have arisen on the eve of the Diaspora Summit, with the hope that you will receive them with good intentions on our part. We hope you will review these requests based on the Memorandum of Understanding between Germin and the Ministry of Diaspora which was signed last year.

Our concerns are based on these four issues:

- The organizational process of the Second Diaspora Summit and the approval of the National Diaspora Strategy did not include members of the Diaspora, and it is necessary to create a greater culture of collaboration between government institutions and the Albanian Diaspora in the future;
- Allocating such a large budget of 67 million Albanian lekë (over \$500,000) for a three-day event is excessive -- especially given the fact that there is a need for a greater effort from the institutions and a better investment of taxpayers' money in sustainable projects to improve relations with the Diaspora rather than just to spend on it;
- The upcoming summit of the Albanian Diaspora gives the impression of a Summit which is primarily for Albanian citizens and not for the entire Albanian Diaspora - there is little or no content in its program to attract Albanians who were not born in Albania; and
- The Diaspora Coordinating Council needs to be revised and a Pan-Albanian Global Diaspora Council should be established, including all the states where Albanians live (Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Presevo Valley, Medvedja and Bujanovac).

Our recommendations are:

- An increase in the number of panels and plenary sessions so that the Summit focuses more on a substantive discussion to improve direct engagement of Diaspora members at the Summit;
- The Government of Albania should review budget allocations -- cancel street decorations, and significantly reduce rental costs, scenography, gala and program costs - even if this requires that the event takes place in a smaller place -- after the Summit, a summary of expenditures should be made public;
- A significant part of this budget should be re-channeled towards long-term programs and commitments of the Diaspora Agency (which has a smaller annual budget than the Summit) to ensure better cooperation with the Diaspora in the future;
- The Diaspora should be involved as a partner in organizing events that are related to it, now and in the future, and not just to be guests -- the role of the government in the 21st century should be the facilitation of cooperation and not just the implementation of projects;

- All future Summits should be led by the Diaspora with the support of the Government of Albania, Kosovo, and other countries participating in these events to ensure a truly Pan-Albanian Summit;
- The Ministry should draft a formal statement to be signed at the end of the Summit stating that this will be the last Diaspora Summit organized by the government and that in the future it will work formally with the Diaspora to organize conferences and summits;
- Establish a working group of 10-15 members during or shortly after the Summit to lead the continuity of work -- this working group should have an equal composition between representatives of the Government and Diaspora and also include representatives of Kosovo, Macedonian, and Montenegrin governments engaged in Diaspora issues;
- To delay the establishment of the Diaspora Council until the above-mentioned working group can thoroughly consider all alternatives in the most comprehensive manner;
- The process and nominations for the Diaspora Council to be revised and the establishment of a global Pan-Albanian Council of Diaspora, consisting of Albanians from (Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Presheva, Mevegja, and Bujanovc).
- The implementation and revision of the National Strategy for Diaspora and Action Plan should be done in close cooperation with the above-mentioned working group; and
- Social media to be used to promote serious dialogue with the Albanian Diaspora and not just for government broadcasting and promotions.

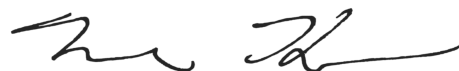
We hope you will consider our concerns and recommendations to make some improvements to the Summit and the follow-up to the Summit.

Thank you very much, and we look forward to further discussion,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Liza Gashi".

Liza Gashi, Executive Director
GERMIN

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Mark Kosmo".

Mark Kosmo, Chair of the Board
GERMIN