

Jacques Aben

Emeritus professor at the University of Montpellier

Member of CRISES laboratory, University of Montpellier Paul-Valéry

Jacques.aben@umontpellier.fr

### **The long and perilous path to the constitution of a defence system for Kosovo**

There has been a sort of Security sector reform in Kosovo, consequence of putting this province in the statute of United Nations protectorate, able to administrate itself. As for police and justice the interventions of the Special representative of the Secretary general; of the European Union; and of the Organisation for security and co-operation in Europe did not provoke hostile reactions from Serbia and their allies, because these decisions were perfectly compatible with the 1244 resolution of the Security Council, organising a path to a desired end state for the Kosovo province.

But creating a complete defence system, especially endowed with armed forces, meant a totally different orientation. This broke the 1244 framework by postulating an independence of the territory, in absence of reform or abrogation of the 1244 resolution, rendered impossible by the hostility of the Federation of Russia, and certainly of China also.

Nevertheless, this move, already present as a wish, in the 1999 disarmament acceptance document of the Kosovo liberation army, was made small step by small step, with what could be interpreted as a complicity of the successive special representatives, until the 2014 international crisis, consecutive to the bringing in of a draft law pretending to create Kosovo armed forces.

But this was only a slight hitch in a sovereign state irrepressible tendency, even if this state was not recognized by one part of the international community. So, the last step was the law 06/L-123 giving to the so-called Kosovo security force (KSF), all the means necessary to their mission, even if this meant also heavy armament.

One can suppose that the after-last step, that is the complete withdrawal of KFOR and, why not, a war between Serbia and Kosovo, is not for tomorrow.