

THE CASE

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Consiglia 241

Kosovo, the request dell'Europarlamento "Reopen the investigation covered up funds blacks"

Eleven dossiers on 3 billion allocated for reconstruction of the former Serbian province. But in four years, EULEX, the agency responsible for administering justice, has not achieved any result. In the silence that is the UN the EU. *Republic* was able to view documents that put the power company accused of the country and the international airport of Pristina. Now part of a request by the Assembly in Strasbourg on the Commission

STEFANO VALENTINO

I read it after



BRUSSELS has just earmarked 111 million euros a year to renew the mandate of EULEX: This is the code name of the team of 3000 people - including administrators, judges and police officers - charged with bringing democracy and justice in Kosovo. But in four years the European EULEX has cost taxpayers over 500 million euros. A cost records, disproportionate to the results obtained. And its super-prosecutor of 60 judges and prosecutors have not yet solved the "mystery" of the misappropriation of European funds for post-conflict reconstruction in the former Serbian province. Funds that the European Commission had outsourced UNMIK, the UN special mission that has administered Kosovo politically and economically from 2000 to 2008, which runs until handover to the new local government declared himself independent from Serbia. The Italian Maria Juliana Civinini, President of the Assembly of EULEX Judges and former member of the High Judicial Council, has responded with no comment to our request for clarification on an issue that is long forgotten by governments and international press. A request to clarify the dossier covered up - in the silence of the European Union and the UN - is only a few fringe dell'Europarlamento. The latest initiative is dell'eurodeputato Socialist Arlacchi Pino, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee in Brussels, known for having co-founded the Anti-Mafia Investigation Department in Italy in the 90s. Arlacchi has sent a written Euro-commissioner for enlargement, Štefan Füle. The interpellation, of which *the Republic* has noted, the EU executive asks the top drawer to pull out of the files relating to investigations initiated between 11 2002 and 2006 Olaf, the European Anti-Fraud. Top secret documents,

stored in the UN headquarters in New York and we have obtained in confidence, say that the 11 dossiers relating to the Electricity Company of Kosovo and the international airport of the capital Pristina. That is the main beneficiary of the 3 billion paid into the coffers UNMIK international donors. Two-thirds of the amount has been disbursed by the EU, despite the warning on the risk of fraud played repeatedly by the European Court of Auditors and independent auditors. The UNMIK police in fact had the power company, the airport and all the other old Serbian state bodies of the communist era, creating central to a directory of international activities and local places

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responsibilities of the directory used as the international funds dished out for the restructuring of state agencies. There's more An agreement signed by both international organizations and ties still bound hands to OLAF. First, the Euro-financiers could or investigate the funds spent by UNMIK in cooperation with the investigative bodies of UNMIK itself. Also, they were only required to report to the Head of UNMIK, which had discretion to transfer or not to practice the former Attorney-UNMIK, now replaced by EULEX. Olaf Still can not communicate the results of other investigations even European Commission services. "We have repeatedly requested information on the work of UNMIK's task force of investigators, but so far there have always been rejected," says Ruud van Enk, an official at the Directorate-General Enlargement of the executive in Brussels. Already a result of its monitoring mission in Kosovo, in 2008 the European parliament had asked the then European Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn, blaming "lack of willingness to cooperate with United Nations representatives on EU issues transparency and financial control." Olli Rehn had promised to inquire and report to OLAF, but then he finished his term without having done anything to know how. "The EULEX should clarify how it intends to deal with cases not properly investigated by UNMIK prosecutors," said Bart Staes, Head of Delegation MEP who once visited the newborn Balkan state last year. "I myself went to Kosovo and I found an absolute incompetence and disorganization within EULEX," said Arlacchi. The fact is that until 2009, a year after the start of its mandate, the EULEX prosecutor did not even know what were the cases of embezzlement of European funds inherited from UNMIK attorney. This is demonstrated by an exchange of correspondence, given us by sources UNMIK, EULEX in which the judge, Alain Bloch, former prosecutor asked UNMIK, Theo Jacobs, fonirgli of the details of the cases in question. In his response, Theo Jacobs has annexed only documents about the investigation, but not the electricity company. So what happened to the practices? "We have completed all the proceedings transferred to local courts, in accordance with the agreement of UNMIK - EULEX," said Annunziata Ciaravolo, former chief prosecutor and UNMIK are currently investigating judge to the Court of Milan. "If an investigation is not been successful and if a local prosecutor will not or can not reopen it, EULEX prosecutors could do it, provided it is done correctly evaluate the evidence available," said Kai Mueller-Berner, former spokesman for EULEX. Olaf said that agents from investigations on the funds spent on the electricity company had raised more than suspicious behavior. "We expected that UNMIK

prosecutors asked us to continue the investigation, rather than store it," echoed Roberto Magni, officer of the Guardia di Finanza and former Chief Financial Investigations Unit, UNMIK has collaborated with Olaf. *The investigation and 'was supported by the European Investigative Journalism Fund* ¹, a prestigious journalism foundation based in Brussels who funded this research work on Kosovo

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Consiglia

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