



AMBASSADOR  
HEAD OF THE MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO  
THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 9 December, 2015

Dear Ms. Lunacek,

Referring to the draft of the European parliament Resolution on the 2015 Report on Kosovo presented in the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs on 7 December 2015, I would like to draw your attention to the lack of the balance and consistency in certain paragraphs of the abovementioned document, in particular those where Serbia or the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina are mentioned. Resolutions of the European parliament on the Reports attract wide attention of media and broader public and should, as much as possible, avoid the impression of having one sided, partisan approach.

I would like to stress that Serbia's role in the dialogue with Pristina representatives has been commended by a number of objective observers. Serbia will continue to be constructive because the aim of the process is normalization of relations and improvement of lives of the people in Kosovo and Metohija. At the same time, we underline that full implementation of the agreements that have been reached is of paramount importance for a further successful evolvement of the process of dialogue. Regrettably, the decision by Pristina to suspend the agreement concerning principles on formation of the Community of Serb majority municipalities, brought only a day after European Commission published its progress report, represents unprecedented case of evading the EU-brokered agreement and sends an evident negative message to all – the Serbian community, the European Union and whole international community. Let me express my firm belief that the European Parliament, through its Resolution, should send a clear and unequivocal call to the authorities in Pristina for the complete and committed implementation of the reached agreements that, unfortunately, stayed out of the presented draft.

I was also caught by surprise to learn from the draft Resolution that not even a word was spent arguing for the protection of rights of Serbian population in Kosovo and Metohija, and requesting Kosovo authorities to provide for sustainable return of more than 200,000 internally displaced persons still residing at the territory of Serbia proper. I would like to inform you that in the previous sixteen years only 12,000 IDPs returned, according to the UNHCR data.

Ms. Ulrike Lunacek  
Vice-President of the EP and Rapporteur for Kosovo  
European Parliament

Furthermore, regarding the paragraph through which has been “deplored rejection of Kosovo’s membership application for UNESCO due to the active obstruction of Serbia”, Serbia’s firm position is that we do not recognize unilaterally declared “independence of Kosovo”, which has not been recognized by a major part of the international community as well, including the five EU member states.

Moreover, I would like to stress, once again, the importance of Serbian religious and cultural heritage in Kosovo and Metohija, which plays an important role in shaping the historic identity of Serbian people. Allow me to remind that behind “several Serb religious and cultural heritage sites regrettably destroyed in 2004”, as stated in the draft of the Resolution, actually stands well documented fact that thirty five orthodox churches and monasteries, out of which eighteen monuments of special cultural importance, were burned or destroyed by dynamite or setting fire, only in three days of March 2004. In accordance with its firm commitment to the dialogue facilitated by the EU, the Government of the Republic of Serbia on several occasions requested that the topic of Serbian religious and cultural heritage should be discussed in Brussels as part of the dialogue on the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina. Unfortunately, the other side has not accepted this proposal and opted for the unilateral acts such as the submission of the request for membership in UNESCO. With the aim to prevent politicization and polarization of UNESCO, the Republic of Serbia insisted that this issue should be resolved within the dialogue on the normalization, in order to reach a sustainable solution, which would also contribute to the regional stability and cooperation.

Last but not the least, referring to the visit of Chief of Serbian Armed Forces General Ljubisa Dikovic who has been invited to Pristina by KFOR, let me recall that KFOR is legitimate authority in charge of order that is present in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija under the terms of UN Security Council Resolution No. 1244, as well as under relevant agreements. As the alleged “accusations against general Dikovic” are concerned, I would like to inform you that general Dikovic is not “accused of war crimes”, as it is stated in your draft, by any relevant national or international judicial authority and that the competent war Crimes Prosecutor in Serbia announced, at the time, that there were no basis to suspect his criminal responsibility. In the meantime, General Dikovic filed a private lawsuit against representatives of one NGO group that has accused him.

I hope that above mentioned facts would be taken into consideration and recognized during further work on the draft of the resolution.

Sincerely,



Ambassador

Drasko Lopandic

Copy to:

- Mr. Elmar Brok, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
- Members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs