



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Ulrike Lunacek, MEP

The Greens/EFA

H.E. Duško Lopandić
Ambassador
Head of the Mission of the Republic of Serbia
to the EU

Dear Ambassador Lopandić,

Let me thank you for the interest in the draft report on 2015 report on Kosovo I prepared and presented in the Foreign Affairs Committee. As you know, the first draft is limited in characters and the deadline for amendments was on Friday, 18 December, and a number of amendments were tabled. In January we will work together with the colleagues shadow rapporteurs on drafting compromise amendments, and during this process we will address some of the concerns you express, including the question of IDPs and returns.

I would just like to address some of the concerns you express. Regarding the Dialogue on Normalisation of relations, neither Serbia, nor Kosovo have implemented all of the agreements reached in the framework of the Dialogue. The report on Serbia also invites Serbia to implement all the agreements. It is in the interest of both sides to ensure that the agreements reached are fully implemented.

Regarding UNESCO application, the majority of international community and UN Member States have already recognised Kosovo. Membership in UNESCO would ensure that Kosovo becomes part of this framework for protection of heritage, promoting, protecting and upholding standards set by UNESCO, including regarding the Serbian religious and cultural heritage sites. The destruction of Serbian cultural and religious sites in March 2004 was deplorable and has been condemned by the European Parliament. Kosovo has strived to rebuild the destroyed sites – I have visited some of them myself - and also has brought a high number of perpetrators to justice. The way Serbia has lobbied against Kosovo's membership in UNESCO – including Foreign Minister Dacic claiming, according to media reports, that 'it would be the same if someone proposed ISIS for the UNESCO membership.' – is completely against the spirit of good neighbourly relations which the Brussels Dialogue between the two countries stands for. Nevertheless, you can find in my draft of the resolution criticism of the lack of coherence between EU member states, and not just non-recognizers.

Regarding the visit of Chief of Serbian Armed Forces General Ljubiša Diković, and any other high level visit, an agreement had been reached in the Brussels Dialogue regarding the Liaison Officers and their role in preparing such visits in the two countries. Therefore it is regrettable that Liaison Officers have not been involved in this case.



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I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Serbia for the opening of two chapters on 14 December 2015 as the beginning of accession negotiations and look forward to further cooperation.

With season greetings and best wishes for 2016,
Sincerely,


Ulrike Lunacek

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