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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0439/2023**

16.10.2023

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the recent developments in the Serbia-Kosovo dialogue, including the situation in the northern municipalities in Kosovo  
(2023/2880(RSP))

**Klemen Grošelj, Malik Azmani, Petras Auštrevičius, Dita Charanzová, Katalin Cseh, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Nathalie Loiseau, Karen Melchior, Javier Nart, Nicolae Dragoș Pîslaru, Ioan Dragoș Tudorache, Hilde Vautmans**  
on behalf of the Renew Group

**European Parliament resolution on the recent developments in the Serbia-Kosovo dialogue, including the situation in the northern municipalities in Kosovo (2023/2880(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Kosovo and Serbia,
  - having regard to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Serbia, of the other part<sup>1</sup> and to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and Kosovo, of the other part<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to the statement of 24 September 2022 by the High Representative Josep Borrell on the attack against Kosovo Police,
  - having regard to the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalisation of Relations (the Brussels Agreement) between the Governments of Serbia and Kosovo of 19 April 2013, to the agreements of 25 August 2015, and to the ongoing EU-facilitated dialogue for the normalisation of relations,
  - having regard to the Brussels Agreement of 27 February 2023, to the Ohrid Agreement of 18 March 2023 and to the Implementation Annex thereto,
  - having regard to the Tirana Declaration adopted at the EU-Western Balkans summit of 6 December 2022,
  - having regard to the outcome of the high-level meeting organised on 27 February 2023 by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the agreement on the path to normalisation between Kosovo and Serbia,
  - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the situation in northern Kosovo has been deteriorating for several months, particularly since the municipal elections in April 2023, which were boycotted by the largest Serb political party in Kosovo, the Serb List, following its departure from Kosovan institutions; whereas in May 2023, clashes erupted in northern Kosovo, resulting in injuries to 25 Kosovo Force (KFOR) peacekeepers;
- B. whereas on 24 September 2023, a coordinated and sophisticated paramilitary attack took place in Banjska, in the north of Kosovo, involving tens of Serb paramilitaries who ambushed Kosovo Police units, leading to the death of one Kosovo police officer and causing injuries to two others; whereas the armed group subsequently sought refuge

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 278, 18.10.2013, p. 16.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 71, 16.3.2016, p. 3.

within the Banjska Monastery, endangering pilgrims and necessitating the intervention of Kosovo special forces, which resulted in the death of three gunmen and the arrest of several individuals;

- C. whereas the Kosovo authorities captured an arsenal of weaponry, munitions and vehicles after arresting some of the gunmen; whereas the majority of the weapons seized were produced in Serbia and some had passed through Serbian state maintenance centres, while the type and quantity of weapons seized suggest this was a significant, coordinated operation; whereas the Kosovan authorities alleged Serbian state involvement;
  - D. whereas Milan Radoičić, the main powerbroker in the north of Kosovo, an ally of the President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, and, until recently, deputy leader of the Serb List, has admitted to organising and taking part in the incident; whereas Milan Radoičić has been on the US sanctions list since 2021 for his involvement in organised crime;
  - E. whereas after being briefly detained and questioned by the Serbian authorities, Milan Radoičić was released by the Supreme Court in Belgrade; whereas the President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, has refused to extradite Milan Radoičić to Kosovo, the Serbian Government declared a day of national mourning for the three dead Serbs and the regime-affiliated media glorified them as martyrs;
  - F. whereas following the attack, Serbia temporarily deployed additional troops to the border with Kosovo, thereby further escalating an already tense situation; whereas these incidents have exacerbated regional instability and undermined the Serbia-Kosovo dialogue;
  - G. whereas, despite the mediation efforts of the EU over the past few months, Serbia and Kosovo have failed to make progress towards the normalisation of their relations;
  - H. whereas both Serbia and Kosovo aspire to join the EU; whereas the EU is Kosovo and Serbia's largest donor, trading partner and investor; whereas the EU supports Serbia and Kosovo's commitment to European integration, notably through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) III and the Economic Plan for the Western Balkans;
1. Strongly condemns the attack that occurred on 24 September 2023 in the village of Banjska, and expresses solidarity with the victims and their families;
  2. Calls for the EU and its Member States to intensify their work with the Kosovo institutions, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and KFOR, to shed light on all the details surrounding this attack and to identify and bring to justice all those responsible for its planning, financing and execution; calls on the Serbian authorities to fully collaborate with the ongoing investigation; calls for the EU and its Member States to prepare targeted sanctions against the organisers, funders and perpetrators of the 24 September 2023 attack in Banjska, based on the findings of the investigation;
  3. Condemns and deplores the handling of this grave security incident by the Serbian authorities, including through their deployment of troops near the border with Kosovo, their attempts at destabilising Kosovo, their reluctance to cooperate in the investigation,

their lenient attitude towards the organisers and perpetrators of the attack and the rhetoric used by the Serbian leaders during this crisis; calls on the Serbian authorities to fully withdraw their troops and heavy weapons from the border with Kosovo, in line with past agreements;

4. Calls on KFOR and EULEX to conduct regular joint security assessments in the north of Kosovo to evaluate the security situation and to focus more on the significant role played by organised crime in developments in that region; welcomes the recent reinforcement of KFOR and urges NATO member states to consider further strengthening the peacekeeping force; calls for the EU and its Member States to increase EULEX's units on the ground even further, in particular in the north of Kosovo and, if necessary, to temporarily strengthen its role as a security responder in the north of Kosovo;
5. Condemns the acts of violence against all Kosovan citizens, KFOR troops, law enforcement agencies and the media in northern Kosovo; calls for swift, transparent and thorough investigations into all these incidents and for all perpetrators to be held accountable and sanctioned; emphasises the importance of making every effort to improve the fragile security situation and to defuse potential triggers of tension and/or conflict;
6. Calls on Serbia and Kosovo to denounce all forms of violence and acts of provocation, urging restraint and the immediate cessation of any actions that may further escalate tensions; calls on Serbia and Kosovo to refrain from unilateral actions that could undermine peace and stability in the region, and instead actively work towards a peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue facilitated by the EU;
7. Calls on the leaders of Kosovo and Serbia to reaffirm their commitment to the Ohrid Agreement and previous EU-brokered agreements, to take credible steps towards their implementation and to engage actively and constructively in the EU-facilitated dialogue to resolve outstanding issues and normalise relations, while avoiding any rhetoric or actions that might hinder the dialogue process; calls for the EU to strengthen its role as a mediator in the Serbia-Kosovo dialogue and in the Western Balkans in general;
8. Reiterates its calls for the full implementation, in good faith and in a timely manner, of all the relevant agreements by both sides, including the establishment of the Association/Community of Serb-Majority Municipalities based on already agreed principles; believes that a final and comprehensive settlement will enhance cooperation, stability and prosperity in the wider region and ensure lasting conciliation between both nations as prerequisite for the EU integration of both states;
9. Highlights that the failure to implement the EU-brokered agreements and the lack of progress on the normalisation of their relations jeopardises the two countries' prospects for integration with the EU; underlines that the normalisation of relations is essential for both countries' progress towards EU membership; calls for the EU to take action in the framework of pre-accession assistance against those who do not comply with the agreements;
10. Calls for an increase in international and cross-border cooperation targeting organised crime; regrets that limited progress has been made in investigating and prosecuting such

cases; expresses concern about the challenging situation for the fight against organised crime in the north of Kosovo, where criminal gangs continue to operate, adversely affecting the lives and future prospects of Kosovan citizens in the northern municipalities;

11. Regrets that Serbia has resumed the Kosovo de-recognition campaign; calls on Serbia to refrain from attempts to isolate Kosovo from the international community by campaigning against its recognition or by excluding the country from international organisations;
12. Regrets the boycott of judicial institutions encouraged by Serbian nationalist political parties; deplores the boycott of the municipal elections in northern Kosovo on 23 April 2023 by the main political party in the north of Kosovo, the Serb List, and the intimidation of Serb opposition politicians; regrets the government's insistence on maintaining citizens of the Albanian Kosovan community as mayors in the northern municipalities despite very low electoral turnouts, as their low degree of legitimacy hampers the reconciliation and integration process of the Albanian Kosovan and Serbian communities in Kosovo; calls for the immediate re-run of the municipal elections in the region concerned, with the full participation of all political parties on the basis of free and fair principles;
13. Calls on Kosovo to address all the remaining shortcomings of the election process and to implement the related recommendations of the EU Election Observation Missions in full and ensure a free and fair election process for all political parties;
14. Regrets the fact that the initiatives to involve the Serb community in Kosovo's political, social and economic structures remain very limited; reiterates its call for the Kosovo authorities to improve the internal dialogue with the independent civil society organisations of Kosovo Serbs, with the aim of building trust, facilitating the daily life of Kosovo Serbs, successfully integrating them and ensuring an environment conducive to lasting conciliation between the two nations;
15. Reiterates the need for the urgent return of Kosovo Serbs to the institutions, while encouraging the government to significantly step up its efforts for their reintegration; reaffirms that reconciliation and the inclusion of the Serb community in Kosovo is essential to ensure stability in the country and for moving forward in the normalisation of Pristina-Belgrade relations;
16. Calls on the Serbian authorities, high-ranking political representatives and officials to refrain from employing derogatory language in connection with the EU-facilitated negotiation process, EU policies in the Western Balkans and the overall EU enlargement process, as such conduct may lower public support for EU policies and EU enlargement in general;
17. Condemns the Russian attempts to exert influence over the Western Balkans by means of exploiting cultural, ethnic and religious divisions and destabilising pro-democratic forces; calls for a full clarification of the potential role Russia played in the attack that took place in Banjska;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the

Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the President, Government and Parliament of Kosovo, the President, Government and Parliament of Serbia, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the UN and the Council of Europe.