

EN

E-001138/2020

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(10.6.2020)

Miroslav Lajčák was appointed as European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues on 2 April 2020 by the Council<sup>1</sup> upon proposal of the High Representative/Vice President. This appointment further demonstrates the resolve of the European Union and its Member States to seek the sustainable normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo\* under the auspices of the EU-facilitated Dialogue.

The appointment of EUSR Lajčák gives a new momentum for the full resumption of normalisation talks following the lifting of customs tariffs by Kosovo on 1 April 2020.

The United Nations General Assembly endorsed in 2011 the European Union's role<sup>2</sup> in facilitating the normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo.

The normalisation of relations is closely linked to the European perspective of the Western Balkans as agreed by all EU Member States<sup>3</sup>. The issue of recognition is within the competence of Member States. Kosovo is recognised by 22 EU Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020D0489&from=EN>

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

<sup>2</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/64/298>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/fr/press/press-releases/2019/06/18/council-conclusions-on-enlargement-and-stabilisation-and-association-process>