

## Resignation of Serbian government

Beginning of 2008 is period of crucial political happenings for Serbia. After January presidential elections won sharply by incumbent president Boris Tadić and referred by analysts to as referendum on the European Union, Serbia found its-self in stalemate.

Events that followed the elections, eventually ending up in break-up of the joint Democratic Party (DS) and Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) government, dissolution of the parliament and announcement of new parliamentary elections on May 11, were trigger by Kosovo's independence declaration.

Mass rallies followed in Serbia, and Serbian parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro. In Belgrade, they also took shape of violent attacks on foreign companies and embassies of countries which already, or were about to, recognize independent Kosovo. Serbian Radical Party (SRS) used those sensitive times and came up with resolution on Kosovo<sup>1</sup> stating also that Serbia will not join the EU, if European countries do not revoke their recognition of independent Kosovo.

Clash between PM Koštunica of DSS, who supported the SRS' resolution and ministers of DS and G17+ who were against, led to abdication of the government. At the end, the government couldn't celebrate even its first birthday and Serbia's EU path hit another obstacle.

Unfortunately, it happened in a moment, when the EU published its new Communication on Western Balkans<sup>2</sup> giving the countries generous financial and non-financial opportunities. Moreover, pro-European block inside Serbia is weakened by these developments, and Serbia lacks political leadership and civil infrastructure to push it towards the European Union. This problem is discussed in the paper of the Pontis Foundation<sup>3</sup> soon to be published.

In the shadow of all these crucial events, on March 12, Serbia remembered the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of assassination of Zoran Djindjić from DS. His death is considered to be a breakpoint in country's reform course, causing Serbia to stagnate politically and economically since 2003.

Also French and Swedish Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Bernard Kouchner and Carl Bildt, remember the anniversary in their article for The Times<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics-article.php?yyyy=2008&mm=03&dd=05&nav\\_id=48191](http://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics-article.php?yyyy=2008&mm=03&dd=05&nav_id=48191)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/balkans\\_communication/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/balkans_communication/index_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/tmp/asset\\_cache/link/0000018467/Serbian%20Civil%20Society%20Brief%20-%20March%2014%202008.pdf](http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/tmp/asset_cache/link/0000018467/Serbian%20Civil%20Society%20Brief%20-%20March%2014%202008.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest\\_contributors/article3533101.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article3533101.ece)