

Serbia ratified SAA

The Serbian parliament (called also Skupstina) ratified the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU on September 9, 2008. According to Mirko Cvetkovic, the Serbian Prime Minister, Serbia took a big step towards European integration and a better life. The SAA was signed between Serbia and the EU already in April 2008, shortly before the early parliamentary elections. Many analysts agree that signing the SAA helped Serbia to elect a pro-democratic and pro-European government.

The SAA was ratified by 140 out of the 250 members of the parliament, 28 members of nationalist parties were against. The biggest opposition party, the Serbian Radical Party, boycotted the vote also because of its internal disputes. Skupstina ratified also Energy agreement with Russia which enables realisation of the gas pipeline South Stream from Russia to EU countries.

Also the ratification of all EU member states is necessary for the agreement to become effective. The Netherlands refuses to accept the ratification unless Serbia captures the remaining two most wanted war crime indictees – Ratko Mladic, the military chief of Bosnian Serbs and Goran Hadzic, the wartime leader of Croatian Serbs during and extradites both to the Hague.

Sources: B92, SME, BalkanInsight

Kosovo Serbs refuse EULEX

The Kosovo Serbs Assembly opposes the European Civil Mission EULEX in Kosovo that is to support institutional capacities in the field of legal state, especially the police, judicial system and customs. On September 13, 2008 the Assembly signed the Declaration according to which "EULEX mission cannot interfere within the Serbian territory of Kosovo, when it already has been implemented in Kosovo without any legal basis, because this effort on the Serbian territory causes reluctance of the Serbs in the province".

Kosovo Serbs representatives request a stricter policy and support to be performed by Belgrade, especially after the announcements of the Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic. He admitted the possibility of "mission reconfiguration" so that it complies also with Kosovo Serbs.

Sources: B92, EULEX