

Serbia and EU in 2009

On January 12 President of Serbia Boris Tadic, Minister of Foreign Affairs Vuk Jeremic and Minister of Interior Ivica Dacic spoke at the conference for the ambassadors in Serbia.

President Tadic assured the ambassadors that priority of Serbia in 2009 will be improving three basic pillars of Serbian foreign policy, which are: European Union, USA and Russia. Without improvement of relations between Serbia and those partners Serbia can not improve national interests. He also stated that Serbia wanted to reform the Ministry of foreign affairs in 2009 and to brace it with young cadres.

Prime Minister Cvetkovic expressed his expectations from Serbian ambassadors abroad. From Serbian diplomats he expects promotion of Serbian economy and usage of different models of how other countries tackle the world financial crises.

Serbian Minister of Interior assured ambassadors that Serbia wants to fulfill Serbian national obligation in 2009 by arresting war criminals Goran Hadzic and Ratko Mladic.

Sources: Danas, B92

Establishment of Kosovar defense army

Kosovar defense corpus existed till January 20, 2009. After this date Kosovo obtained its own defense army. The Commandant of this defense army will be Sulejman Selimi, who was also in charge of previous defense corpus. According to the plan there should be at least 10 % of non Albanian nationality present in this defense army. For the new defense corpus USA secured the uniforms, Germany secured vehicles and UK officers are going to provide them with trainings.

Kosovar Serbian does not agree with establishment of such a military force. They are afraid that it will lead to violation of security in Kosovo. They are also worried about NATO key role in establishment of new Kosovo defense army.

Serbian Minister for Kosovo and Metohija Goran Bogdanovic stressed, that Serbia and Serbs from Kosovo are against of establishment of such a force. He stressed no difference between previous military force KLA (Kosovo Liberation Army) and new defense army of Kosovo. He called for demilitarization of whole Kosovo. According to him this is the only way how the security can be brought to this province and the whole region. Bogdanovic also stated that in communication with international community and the EU he will address ruinedness of such a force, which can aggravate situation in Kosovo.

"Kosovo is not condition for accession to EU" – stated Serbian president Tadic for B92. He also stated that for Serbia is not acceptable the establishment of Kosovo defense army and demilitarization is the only way how to provide security for people who live there.

Source: B92