

## HYSTORICAL AGREEMENT

Several months long negotiations between Belgrade and Priština finished on April 19th, after the tenth round, by initialing the agreement by the Prime Minister Ivica Dačić and Hashim Thaci. The agreement was arranged in a way that Belgrade two days before that received from Brussels the improved offer, by which was accepted almost all that Serbia demanded in previous few months. It turned out that Serbian Government was right when it rejected after the seventh and eighth round of negotiations to accept the solutions it considered not be in the interest of Serbian people living on Kosovo despite the warnings there would not be negotiations with Priština any more which meant that Serbia would be left without the date of the beginning of joining negotiations with European Union ( EU ).

What is the new that Serbia received in Brussels this week? First of all the jurisdictions in the sector of police which is regulated by the Act IX of the Agreement. According to the laws of Kosovo, written in coordination with the Plan of former Finland president and the mediator of the United Nations Marri Ahtisaari , has been specified that, apart from the fact that the constitution of the police inside the municipality with Serbian majority reveals the ethical constitution of the citizens, the commanders of local police stations in „Serbian“ municipalities suggests local parliament as well as that inside them exist special local boards presided by the major and which deal with questions of security. In municipalities with Serbian majority the commanders of local police stations are chosen in a way that municipality suggests at least two candidates for the position of the station commander and the Minister of Police is obliged to name one candidate in the following 15 days. In case of not doing so, the municipality encloses another list with at least two other suggested candidates and the Ministry is obliged to name one of them in 15-day term. The problem lied in the regional directions of the police which were thus made by the Kosovo Government's side in order to reduce the influence of local police commanders which were under the influence of municipalities with Serbian majority. Serbia requested that the territory of the Union was treated as one regional direction and that the regional director of the police was suggested by Serbs. This is a resonable suggestion which does not change the core of the existing Kosovo's laws but enables that institutions on the north of Kosovo which are mostly constituted by Serbs have got the crucial influence on the police. Now Serbia needs to focus that Priština does not try to, during the application of this agreement in the part which is regulated by the police, stop the admission of larger number of Serbs in Kosovo's police under the exuse of „ not fulfilling the legal terms“. If we add to that the fact the NATO quaranteed that Kosovo's security forces were not going to be present at the territory of the Union as well as that they could only intervene in cases of elemental disasters at the Union's call, it can be said that Serbs are going to fully control security and police questions at the territory they live on.

Other burning problem, the judiciary, is solved by the Act X of the Agreement. The Ahtisaari plan suggests that in the municipalities with Serbian majority judges are chosen by the local authorities. The problem emerged with the second level courts, the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court because Serbs simply did not want to be left to the decisions of Albanian judges, whom they did not trust, at higher legal instances. That is why the decision to be formed the department of second level court with the apelational jurisdiction in Severna Mitrovica, where the majority is going to be formed by judges of Serbian nationality, is very important for the creating of the feeling of legal security with Serbs on Kosovo. Serbian side can be satisfied because the European Union ( EU ) also accepted the change of the Act XIV of the Agreement where was originally asked of Serbia not to block Kosovo in its trials to become the member of the international institutions. Now Belgrade and Priština agreed only not to block one another in the process of European integrations. The question is whether it is possible to happen except in the case when Serbia becomes the member of the European Union and then has more rights on the possible joining of Kosovo to the Union. For Serbia this Act was very important because in the case it was accepted, according to the previous suggestion of the European Union, Belgrade would be forced to agree with the membership of Kosovo in the European Union. Belgrade refuses to do so because it would mean actual admittance of Kosovo's independence.

Everyone can be satisfied with the arranged agreement. First of all Belgrade which acomplished significant progress in normalisation of relations with Priština, ensured itself the beginning of negotiations about joining the European Union and new investments in its economy. Serbia has to use its chance now to reform its society according to the European standards, to enable the investments in its infrastructure and the economy and become not only political but also economic leader of the Balkans. In front of the current Serbian Government is the historical opportunity which it, honestly speaking, earned by its determination to solve the problem of Kosovo, and which it must not miss.

Priština has also got reasons for satisfaction. The administration of Priština is facing the fact that Serbs do not accept Kosovo, that it does not control the part of the territory, that its citizens live as in the ghetto with the passports with which they can not travel to Serbia but also in other countries of the European Union without visas, the fact that it can not become the member of numerous international institutions with the consequence of its sportsmen not taking part in the international competitions, without the active economy because of which the society lives on the assignments of Albanians living abroad and financially helping their relatives on Kosovo, the largest unemployment rate in Europe – it desperatelly needs the way out of the current situation. After the agreement with Belgrade Thaci expects new admittances of Kosovo's independence but also better cooperation, at the first pace economic one, with Serbia which would guarantee better life to Kosovo. According to the data of Kosovo's Government, Serbia is the main trade partner of Kosovo, so that now are created better terms for mutual business of Serbian and Kosovo's companies. This Agreement faced Priština with another cruel reality that they have been trying to escape from for 14 years – the future of Kosovo is in close cooperation with Serbia and the way of Kosovo into Europe leads via Belgrade. It seems that Priština finally showed readiness to admit that and that is a brave step out of Kosovo's Government, as well as it was brave the acceptance of Serbian Government that the return on the previous state before the NATO intervention in 1999. on Kosovo is not possible.

The European Union ( EU ) has also got reasons for satisfaction, its fragile diplomacy showed that it is capable of solving problems in its lobby. In case of not making any agreements between Belgrade and Priština, the damage would also experience, apart from both sides, the European Union which would have to continue its presence on Kosovo which costs a lot partly through the presence of military forces and partly through the presence of the mission of EULEX and other civil representatives. However, the consequences for the European Union would also be political ones. Brussels because of the interruption of the process of European integrations would not have the influence on Belgrade which would be under the strong influence of Moscow and Kosovo would completely turn to the USA. Thus the European Union would not only lose its influence in its lobby but the Europe would get a new „ frozen conflict“ such the „ Cysprus“ one. That is the reason why the European Union has shown a great will for the agreement between Belgrade and Priština to be reached. It was its interest, not less than the interest of Serbia or Kosovo.

The Government of Serbia managed for nine months to make an agreement with Priština and to start joining negotiations about the membership of Serbia in the European Union. It is a great success that the Government should be cogratulated on and greatest contributions apart from the Prime Minister Dačić belong to the first Deputy Prime Minister and the leader of the greatest party in the country Aleksandar Vučić who revealed great determination to make progress. Courage that Serbian political leaders have shown in solving the aged Kosovo problem gives hope that they will with the same eagerness reform society and economy and work on the improvement of the economic situation. Just the terms „ reforms“, „modernisation“ and „economy“ are the key terms for the further progress of Serbia. The Government should use this moment to make this country remain popular for the economic investments, which would make of Serbian economy its greatest trump and enable better life for its citizens. The moment for it is not the most suitable one, first of all because of the economiccrisis, but it is time now that the administration to use the positive political moment for the direct agreements with the wealthiest European countries first of all with Germany about the investment in Serbia. The European Union should be convinced that the agreements about the normalisation of relations would stay only letter on the paper unless people start living better. In addition, the Government should continue with the politics of attracting investments from the markets out of the European Union as it is the case with the United Arab Emirates ( UAE ), Catar, China with which Serbia has got the agreement about the strategic partnership and Russia which is only this year , through the Pipe line „ South Flow“ , going to invest in Serbia almost two billion euros.

The membership in the European Union still remains the most important goal of Serbian Government. The European Union has shown receintly quite a lot weaknesses but it is still the most attractive union of nations in the world. The process of closing of one small country to Brussels, such as Serbia, „forces“ it to bring its administration, judiciary, public relations, before all the relations towards its citizens and their rights, and the infrastructure, to the European level. If not being so, many small countries, especially from the south of Europe, which are the members of the European Union or are one step from the joining, these standards could never achieve alone.

That is why Serbia now, when it is obvious that it is going to start the joining negotiations about the membership in the European Union, should concentrate on the fact when the negotiations are going to be finished and what reforms are really going to be done. This can be confirmed by the examples of Turkey and Croatia which started negotiations about the membership in the European Union at the same time, in the year 2005. Six years later, Croatia finished the negotiations and this year it is becoming the member of the European Union, while Turkey from the European community of nation is far away a lot. And yet, Turkey stated the process of joining to the European Union back in 1987. When Croatia was still the part of Yugoslavia, it is the joining member of Western-european Union since 1992. and has got the customs office agreement with the European Union back since 1995. and the candidate for the member of the European Union became in the year 1999! If we add to that the fact that Turkish economy is in great expansion and that this country recently paid off the debt of the International Monetary Fund ( IMF ) with the overall value of 52, 7 billion dollars and borrowed money to that organisation , it becomes clear that the question of its joining the European Union is primarily political question. The examples of Bulgaria and Romania confirm that fact. Serbia now finally has got the suitable political moment and it should use it.