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Russia against deadlines for Kosovo status, Lavrov tells Ischinger

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Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told EU representative in the Contact Group troika Wolfgang Ischinger that Moscow was opposed to setting deadlines to the Kosovo status talks and advocated commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

"The Russian side... stressed the inadmissibility of setting time limitations on the negotiating process," Lavrov said after the meeting in Moscow.

Ischinger also discussed the resolution of the Kosovo status issue with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Titov and Russia's representative in the troika, Aleksandr Botsan-Kharchenko, according to a statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"Moscow underlined the necessity to strictly abide by the agreed principles of the troika on a balanced mediation and commitment to Security Council Resolution 1244, which represents a foundation for the solving of the Kosovo issue," the statement said.

Russia confirmed its intention to continue active participation in the negotiating process, finding roads to reaching a compromise between Belgrade and Pristina which would be confirmed in the UN Security Council.

Moscow also warned against "inadmissible statements which prejudge the outcome of the talks and are contrary to their aim".