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Brussels round of Kosovo talks under way

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The second round of direct talks between Belgrade and Pristina started at 13.45 local time at the EU headquarters in Brussels, under the auspices of the Contact Group troika.

The troika met earlier in the morning to prepare the round, and is due to meet with the two delegations separately following the three-hour round of direct talks.

Ahead of the meeting, Serbian Minister for Kosovo Slobodan Samardzic said Belgrade would present its plan on substantial autonomy in more detail and try to persuade the Kosovo Albanians it was “the best plan for all”.

Samardzic, however, warned that the new round was held “under the shadow of the latest remarks by American officials who are suggesting that Ahtisaari’s plan was still in force”.

“These kinds of statements are preventing a dialogue and making worthless all the efforts by EU representative Wolfgang Ischinger and the troika (...) The US officials keep on suggesting, even more intensively in the last couple of weeks, about a solution which is favorable only to one side”, he said.

“We have an agenda, but we do not have the political requirement, because there is no full readiness of all sides to lead to the dialogue”, Samardzic said.