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September 9, 2008

Holbrooke urges EU to condition Serbia with Kosovo recognition

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Former US mediator for the Balkans, Richard Holbrooke, on Monday in Pristina called on Montenegro and Macedonia to recognize Kosovo, adding that the EU should not admit Serbia into its ranks as long as it expresses "pretensions" towards Kosovo and considers it a part of its territory.

“If Serbia joins the EU, this should happen only if full agreement is reached for (Belgrade) to recognize Kosovo as an independent state. The EU would make a big mistake if it accepted a Serbia which has pretensions that Kosovo is a part of its territory”, Holbrooke said after meeting with Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci.

Holbrooke also praised Kosovo's handling of the challenge to be recognized by other countries, "bearing in mind the global campaign against its independence, led by Russia".