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EU opponents of secession put doubts on integration prospects of a “Kosovo state”

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Spain and four other EU opponents of Kosovo’s unilateral secession – Greece, Cyprus, Slovakia and Romania – have put doubts on Kosovo’s EU integration as a “state” as they urged the bloc to put away any reference to its statehood in enlargement-related documents.

In conclusions adopted by EU foreign ministers on Monday, a reference to the “feasibility study” – which reviews the capability of states to start EU integration --- was downgraded to simple “study”.

“The European Council welcomes the intention of the European Commission to present a study in autumn 2009 which will examine the political and socio-economic development in Kosovo,” the conclusions said.

EU commissioner Olli Rehn said that “concerning the feasibility study, or 'study', what is essential is that we analyse on the basis of a clear EU mandate, how we will advance in the economic and social development of Kosovo and how the European perspective of Kosovo can materialise in line with the European perspective of the whole region.”

EU opponents of Kosovo’s secession are blocking all reference to Kosovo’s statehood in official EU documents.