

Troika Press Statement on Kosovo

Brussels, November 20, 2007

The U.S./EU/Russia negotiating Troika met in Brussels on November 20 with delegations from Kosovo and Serbia to discuss Kosovo's future status. The Belgrade delegation was led by President Boris Tadic and Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and included inter alia Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and Minister for Kosovo Slobodan Samardzic. The Pristina delegation was led by President Fatmir Sejdiu and included Prime Minister Agim Ceku, President of the Assembly Kole Berisha, Hashim Thaci, Veton Surroi, Blerim Shala and Skender Hyseni.

The Troika facilitated several hours of direct dialogue between the parties and also met separately with each side to explore further the parties' positions and the Troika's observations on the negotiations to date. For its part, Pristina described its vision of Kosovo's supervised independence in line with the recommendations of UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari. Belgrade continued to elaborate to Pristina its vision of a highly-autonomous Kosovo inside the borders of Serbia.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to refrain from making acts or statements that could undermine the security situation in Kosovo.

The Troika will next meet with the parties in Baden (Austria) on November 26-28.

The Troika reminded both parties that the Troika process will be concluded by the Contact Group reporting to the UN Secretary General by 10 December 2007. The Troika reaffirmed its commitment to make a vigorous effort to reach an agreement between the parties.
