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EU summit set to claim Kosovo talks are “exhausted”

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The EU heads of state meeting in Brussels on Friday will underline that the negotiating process between Belgrade and Pristina on Kosovo’s future status has been “exhausted”, according to draft conclusions.

The European Council will “deeply regret that the two parties were unable to reach a mutually acceptable agreement despite the Troika’s comprehensible and good faith efforts, fully supported by EU member states”.

“While noting that the United Nations Security Council will address this issue at the meeting on December 19, the European Council underlined that the EU stands ready to play a leading role in bringing the status process through to completion and implementing a settlement”, the draft conclusions say.

“It stated the EU’s readiness to assist Kosovo in the path towards sustainable stability, including through provision of an ESDP mission and contributing to an international civilian office as part of the international presences, and to assist economical and political development through a clear European perspective”, the conclusions add.

The Council will, at the same time, encourage Serbia to “meet the necessary conditions to allow its Stabilization Agreement rapidly to be concluded and, in the light of Serbia’s considerable institutional capacity, the Council reiterates its confidence that progress on the road towards the EU can be accelerated”.