

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Dear readers,

Before you is a detailed review of the activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia in 2014. Over the past year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was committed to the implementation of the country's foreign policy objectives – the accelerated EU integration process and the earliest possible commencement of negotiations on chapters, promotion of cooperation with the states of the region, neighbours, Serbia's perennial partners and restoration of the traditionally good relations with the countries of the African Union and the Non-Aligned Movement, international institutions and preservation of the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The international position and reputation of the Republic of Serbia have been strengthened by the intensive dialogue between the Ministry and its diplomatic and consular missions and other countries world-wide. Serbia's proactive, clearly defined and well formulated policy contributed to the country's better positioning on the regional and European level, whereby Serbia affirmed itself as a credible partner implementing genuine reforms.

Serbia has affirmed itself as the pivot of regional cooperation, a constructive, devoted and active partner committed to the enhancement of regional relations and the deepening and concrete implementation of cooperation on the bilateral level, as well as in the context of regional initiatives and mechanisms. In order to contribute to transforming the region into a zone of peace, cooperation and prosperity, the Ministry worked actively on addressing the remaining outstanding issues. The results achieved in addressing the remaining outstanding issues and creating a better atmosphere on the regional level have been recognized also by European institutions, EU Member States and other international actors.

In 2014, preparations for Serbia's 2015 Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) were stepped up. I presented to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, on 15 July 2014, Serbian Chairmanship priorities and participated at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel, in December 2014. Consultations with a large number of OSCE participating States were held in the context of Serbia's preparations for assuming the 2015 OSCE Chairmanship. Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also involved in

the work of the OSCE Troika, as OSCE Special Representative for the Transdniestria Settlement Process, and chaired the Contact Group for Cooperation with Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, as well as the Budgetary Committee.

Efforts continued to be made in the framework of the system of the United Nations and other international organizations to preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Serbia and prevent further recognition of the unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo and Metohija. Serbia's positions on addressing the issue of Kosovo and Metohija were presented at regular Security Council meetings devoted to UNMIK operation, underlying in particular the essential role of the United Nations and UNMIK in the process of reaching a sustainable solution. Only Togo recognized the unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo and Metohija, in July 2014, following the period the Government took office.

In the context of Serbia's cooperation with NATO through the "Partnership for Peace" Programme mechanisms, the Government of Serbia, at the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, adopted the Individual Partnership Action Plan between the Republic of Serbia and NATO, on 20 December. The procedure has since been closed after the adoption of the document by the North Atlantic Council (NAC).

After the catastrophic floods that hit Serbia in May 2014, the Ministry was active in informing the foreign public about the extent of flooding and in coordinating relief aid and donations coming from abroad. The joint approach of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to this regional problem was a well-used opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of Serbia to genuine cooperation with its neighbours.

In addition to its usual consular activities, the Ministry was engaged, as always, in providing consular assistance and protection to our citizens in crisis management situations, doing everything to help them on issues of security and repatriation (Ukraine, Gaza, Libya, Yemen and the RF).

A series of activities was conducted in terms of visa liberalisation in order to attract investment and facilitate the arrival of foreign tourists. At the initiative of the Ministry, the Government of Serbia, on 30 October 2014, adopted the Decision on visa-free entry to the Republic of Serbia for holders of foreign passports having a valid Schengen, UK and other EU Member States' visa, or visa of the United States of America and for holders of foreign passports having authorization to reside in the countries of the Schengen Area, EU or the United States of America.

The Serbian Government adopted agreements on the waiver of a visa requirement for holders of diplomatic and official passports with Cambodia, Indonesia, Iraq, South Africa, Georgia,

Guatemala, Bangladesh, UAE and Nicaragua. The Agreement on the waiver of a visa requirement for all types of passports with Moldova was also adopted.

The procedure for issuance of diplomatic and official passports was applied restrictively.

A thorough overview of the Ministry's work and its diplomatic and consular missions abroad was made from the personnel, material-financial, technical and security aspects and used as a basis for further regulation of the rationalization of costs and introduction of maximum professional standards of work. Amendments to the Regulation on job classification schemes were adopted in accordance with the new Law on Ministries which delegated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs authority for the former Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region attached to the MFA, as well as the responsibilities relating to the earlier adopted decisions of the Government on the opening of new diplomatic and consular missions. Adequate material-financial, organizational-technical and personnel measures have been undertaken in order to enable the most efficient way of performing the OSCE Chairmanship duties.

Maximum effort has been made to cut the costs of official travel abroad, as well as all the accompanying working expenses (entertainment costs, use of cell-phones, official cars, etc.).

Finally, bearing in mind the achievements made in 2014, I am confident that 2015 will also be productive and dynamic in the work of the Serbian diplomacy, in order to strengthen the international position of the Republic of Serbia and present a stable support to our citizens outside Serbia.

Sincerely,

Minister

Ivica Dačić

PREPARATIONS FOR 2015 OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP

1. CONSULTATIONS BEFORE THE CHAIRMANSHIP

Intensive preparations for the Republic of Serbia's 2015 Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) marked the year 2014. In addition to numerous consultations with the participating States at political and operative levels, as the next Chairman-in-Office of the Organization, First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic visited Moscow and Kyiv at the end of the year. In Berlin, in November, a meeting of the future OSCE Ministerial Troika in 2015, consisting of Switzerland, Serbia and Germany, was held. Minister Dacic talked about our OSCE Chairmanship during bilateral meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway, United States, Mongolia, Sweden, Russian Federation, Belgium, Turkey, Great Britain, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Moldova. Serbia's OSCE Chairmanship was the topic of the conversation that Minister Dacic had with representatives of the EU External Action Service, OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, Heads of independent institutions of the OSCE, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in the Trilateral Contact Group for Ukraine, Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini, as well as with the Co-Chairs of the "Minsk Group" and Special Representatives of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for some regions.

In addition to Switzerland, with whom we cooperate closely within the consecutive chairmanship, working consultations were also conducted with Germany, France, Great Britain, Russia, USA, EU, Finland, Belgium, Sweden, Poland, Austria and the OSCE Secretariat. Minister Dacic presented Serbian Chairmanship priorities to the OSCE Permanent Council, in Vienna, in July.

Participation of Minister Dacic in 21st OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel

The Ministerial Council, held on 4 and 5 December in Basel, was important for our preparations. Our participation in this event was very active and noticeable. First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic took part in the informal Ministerial-level segment dedicated to the crisis in and around Ukraine; he delivered a speech in the plenary on Ukraine;

chaired a plenary session dedicated to the cooperation with the OSCE Mediterranean partners and addressed the closing plenary meeting. The participation of Minister Dacic at a ceremony to mark the conclusion of the process under Article IV of the Dayton Agreement, together with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina is particularly important.

The Swiss Chairmanship, at the Basel Ministerial Council, announced a decision to establish the Panel of Eminent Persons of the OSCE, which was supported by the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Participation of Minister Dacic in 21st OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel

2. INTERNAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP

The Task Force for the coordination of activities of Serbia's OSCE Chairmanship began to work in 2014 and held several meetings by the end of the year. The Task Force is led by a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of administrative bodies are included in its work.

Competent organizational units of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have reinforced their staff, as well as the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other international organizations in Vienna. Preparation and additional training of personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have taken place through specific courses organized by the OSCE for the new Chair, in the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna and Belgrade.

At the end of Serbia's Chairmanship in 2015, the OSCE Ministerial Council will meet in Belgrade (the largest event Serbia has so far had the opportunity to organize), for the preparation of which a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been designated.

FLOODS IN SERBIA

CRISIS COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORT

In the wake of the natural disaster that affected the Republic of Serbia in 2014, immediately upon the imposition of a state of emergency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established, on 16 May, the Crisis Staff in order to coordinate activities in the collection of relief aid and donations coming from abroad. The Crisis Staff instructed all diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited in the Republic of Serbia, as well as all of our diplomatic and consular missions (hereinafter referred to as DCMs) and Serbian diaspora organizations abroad, to launch an appeal for collecting and sending humanitarian, financial and technical assistance. At the same time, the request was sent to activate the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, in addition to taking the necessary steps to provide assistance through all available mechanisms and EU funds which Serbia, as an EU candidate country, has access to.

Floods in Serbia, May 2014

All 100 DCMs (embassies, missions and consulates) have been requested to urgently inform governmental institutions and agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses and individuals of their receiving State about the need for assistance to Serbia to evacuate and rescue stranded citizens. All Serbian DCMs were directed to receive cash humanitarian donations, against a receipt and a letter of acknowledgement by the staff. The Serbian Government has opened dinar and foreign currency accounts where those wanting to help victims of flooding can pay in some money. The Embassy in Brussels put into operation a PayPal service account for easy payment of humanitarian donations in cash from 193 countries of the world. One of the priorities of the DCMs in the new circumstances, was also to ensure permanent contact with the media and the dissemination of information about the current situation in Serbia and the extent of the natural disaster. The result was that stories on the floods in Serbia were broadcast on almost all major TV stations, in the print and electronic media. In coordination with other departments, all DCMs are provided with access to the appropriate video and photo material from the flooded areas. Most countries and international organizations responded to the appeal addressed by the Government to assist in the rehabilitation of the consequences of flooding. Immediate and urgent assistance in manpower and equipment, aimed at saving human lives, preventing degradation of the situation and maintaining vital infrastructure systems was provided by the teams from fifteen countries: the Russian Federation, Montenegro, Macedonia and Belarus, and through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism from Bulgaria, Germany, Romania, Denmark, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Austria, France, Croatia and Cyprus. Special teams were sent by the United Nations and the European Union. The aforementioned states, with the support of representatives of Japan, China, Azerbaijan and others assisted in equipment, lifeboats, high-capacity water pumps, generators, water tanks, machinery, helicopters and specialized emergency response

teams. Such assistance was provided by international organizations: UN, WFP, EU, OSCE, OSNA and the USAID Office.

The total of EUR 3,944,058.02, which is equivalent to RSD 471,346,091.13, was raised on dinar and foreign currency accounts and sub-accounts opened by DCMs of RS, until 24 October 2014. In cooperation with the national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other humanitarian organizations, SMS services for the collection of financial aid were opened. Associations of Serbs abroad, as well as numerous humanitarian organizations and prominent individuals organized several cultural events, whose income was intended to help overcome the consequences of flooding. Data on financial effects of raising funds through the above-mentioned organizations is not yet available.

Given the fact that the action of collecting humanitarian and financial aid for the affected population continues, all DCMs are still maximally engaged in collecting aid, its storage and delivery. The DCMs organized a round-the-clock service so that individuals and legal entities could bring their donations at any time. Also, they were given a uniform certificate form confirming the humanitarian nature of aid from abroad, as well as a form for expressing gratitude to donors. In this way, the Ministry has significantly facilitated the procedure at border crossings, as the customs and police authorities of Serbia allowed humanitarian convoys with these certificates to cross the border quickly.

To provide information and requests for further sending all kinds of humanitarian aid, the MFA Crisis Staff is in contact all the time with foreign embassies in Belgrade and our embassies and consulates around the world. The entire process of collecting humanitarian aid abroad and sending it to Serbia is being implemented in coordination with the competent state authorities and institutions of the Republic of Serbia, as well as with the Red Cross of Serbia. Based on the issued certificates and notifications, humanitarian aid in kind, with a total value of around EUR 34.5 million, arrived through DCMs from abroad by 24 October.

CHRONOLOGY OF ACTIVITIES

Chronology of activities of the previous Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ivana Mrkic and the current Minister, Ivica Dacic, who took office on 27 April 2014.

The activities of MFA in the country.

The activities of MFA outside the country.

JANUARY

23 January, Sofia - Minister Ivan Mrkic paid an official visit to the Republic of Bulgaria, where he met with President Rosen Plevneliev, Prime Minister Plamen Oresharski and Minister of Foreign Affairs Cristian Vigenion.

28 – 31 January, Addis Ababa - Minister Ivan Mrkic participated in the Summit of the African Union in Addis Ababa.

FEBRUARY

7 February, Athens - Foreign Minister Ivan Mrkic participated in the Conference on the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

10 February, Brussels - Minister Ivan Mrkic attended a joint working dinner for the Foreign Ministers of EU Member States and candidate countries for EU membership, hosted by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton.

12 February, Belgrade – Minister Mrkic received Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Alexei Meshkov.

13 February, Belgrade - Minister Ivan Mrkic received Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Western Balkans.

18 February, Belgrade – Minister Mrkic received Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Hellenic Republic Evangelos Venizelos in the capacity as Greek Presidency of the EU Council.

21 February, Belgrade - Minister Ivan Mrkic met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia Nikola Poposki, who was on an official visit to the Republic of Serbia, and on that occasion they signed the Agreement on recognition of diplomas in order to improve cooperation in the field of education.

24 February, Belgrade - Minister Ivan Mrkic met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus Ioannis Kasoulides.

24 February, Belgrade - Minister Mrkic spoke with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia Vesna Pusic.

26 February, Belgrade - Minister Mrkic and Austrian Minister for Europe, Integration and International Affairs Sebastian Kurz talked in Belgrade.

MARCH

5 - 6 March, Tunisia – Within the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the beginning of WW I, President of the Republic of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic, accompanied by Minister Ivan Mrkic and Minister of Culture and Information Ivan Tasovac visited Tunisia. On that occasion, the Minister met with Tunisian Foreign Minister Mongi Hamdi and signed the Agreement on Economic and Trade Cooperation and the Agreement on road transport and transit of people and goods between the two countries.

11 March, Yerevan - Minister Ivan Mrkic participated in the first Serbian-Armenian Business Forum and talked with President Serzh Sargsyan, the then Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Speaker of the National Assembly Hovik Abrahamyan, Foreign Minister of Armenia Eduard Nalbandyan and Head of the Armenian Apostolic Church Garegin II.

4 March, Belgrade - Minister Ivan Mrkic spoke with Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, during his official visit to our country.

APRIL

1 April, Belgrade - Minister Ivan Mrkic and First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Peter Drulak signed the Memorandum of Cooperation between the two Ministries.

5 April, Athens - Minister Mrkic participated in the Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers of 28 EU Member States and EU candidate countries. In addition to talks with EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, he had separate bilateral talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo and the new Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini.

24 April, Belgrade - Minister Ivan Mrkic talked with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation Didier Burkhalter, who, in his capacity as OSCE Chairman-in-Office, paid an official visit to Serbia. After the talks, the Ministers signed the Agreement on engaging in gainful activities of dependants of members of diplomatic missions, consular offices and permanent missions to international organizations.

MAY

5 May, Belgrade - First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic talked with EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Stefan Fuele.

5 - 6 May, Vienna - Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic participated at the 124th Ministerial Session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and met with Austrian Foreign Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands F. Timmermans.

7 - 8 May, Thessaloniki - Minister Ivica Dacic took part in the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Conference, held symbolically on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Thessaloniki Agenda on the European integration of the WB countries. On the margins of the conference,

Minister Dacic met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy Federica Mogherini, Greek Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Miroslav Lajčák.

9 - 10 May, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic met with Deputy Prime Minister and MFEA of the Slovak Republic Miroslav Lajčák during his visit to the Republic of Serbia.

10 May, Belgrade - Minister Dacic took part in the First Plenary Session of the World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) for the region of Southeast Europe.

12 May, Belgrade – First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic received Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Western Balkans Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann, who will perform these functions during the consecutive OSCE Chairmanships of the Swiss Confederation and the Republic of Serbia in 2014-2015 period.

20 May, Belgrade - Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Frans Timmermans visited Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad with a group of Dutch businessmen and met with Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic.

21 May, Brussels - Minister Dacic headed the delegation of the Government of the Republic of Serbia who met with the EU Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn to obtain EU aid due to flooding.

28 – 29 May, Algeria - Minister Dacic took part in the XVII Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Algiers, where he had several bilateral meetings with Ministers of the participating countries.

30 May, Belgrade – Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic met with President of the Republic of Slovenia Borut Pahor, as part of President Pahor’s official visit to the Republic of Serbia.

31 May, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic received the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier.

JUNE

2 June, Belgrade - Minister Dacic met with UK Minister for Europe David Lidington, during his working visit to Serbia.

2 - 3 June, Vienna - Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic participated in the “Conference on the Western Balkans 2014” and the annual meeting of the MFA members of the Central European Initiative (CEI).

6 June, Belgrade - Serbian Minister Dacic met with Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations at the United Nations Edmond Mulet.

10 June, Belgrade – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Ahmet Davutoglu visited Belgrade at the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic.

11 June, Belgrade – Serbian Foreign Minister met with the MP of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of the German Bundestag Torsten Fry.

13 June, Belgrade - Minister Dacic talked with Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Piotr Prokopovich and Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Mackay

17 June, Belgrade - Minister Dacic talked with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov. On that occasion, both Ministers signed the Schedule of Consultations between the two Ministries for the period 2015-2016.

17 June, Belgrade - Serbian Minister Dacic received the official visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro Igor Luksic. The two Ministers signed the Agreement on Cooperation between the Diplomatic Academies and the Agreement on Transfer of Immovable Properties on a reciprocal basis for occupancy by DCMs.

18 June, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic met with Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia Alenka Bratusek.

19 June, Varna – Minister Dacic headed the Serbian delegation at the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), and talked with the Foreign Ministers of Bulgaria and Romania, Christian Vigenin and Titus Corlăţean.

20 June, Bucharest - Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic participated in the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Southeast European Cooperation Process (SEECP) and talked with Prime Minister of Romania Victor Ponta. Agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters between the two parties was signed with the Moldovan Foreign Minister Natalia German.

23 June, Belgrade - Minister Dacic met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway Borge Brende.

23 June, Belgrade - Minister Dacic talked with Foreign Minister of New Zealand Murray McCully.

24 June, Vienna - Minister Ivica Dacic participated in the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference.

26-27 June, Vienna - Minister Ivica Dacic headed the delegation of the Republic of Serbia at the Third Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), as well as the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Danube Countries.

27 June, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic talked with Secretary for the Holy See's Relations with States, Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, who was on an official visit to Serbia.

JULY

1 July, Belgrade - First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic participated in the first Summit of the Governments of Serbia and Hungary and talked with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Tibor Navracsics.

3 July, Belgrade - Serbian Minister Dacic met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria Kristian Vigenin.

4 July, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic met with State Secretary of the MFA of the Republic of Portugal Bruno Macaes.

11-12 July, Dubrovnik - Minister Ivica Dacic met with the Director of Basic Issues of EU External Relations and Relations with EU Member States, Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Joachim Bleicker, at the “CROATIA FORUM 2014”.

13 July, Belgrade - Assistant US Secretary of State Victoria Nuland visited Belgrade and on that occasion met with President Nikolic, Prime Minister Vucic and Minister Dacic.

16 July, Brussels - On the occasion of the devastating floods that hit Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, a donor conference was held where First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic took part.

17 July, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania Titus Corlatean during his official visit.

23 July, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic received Secretary General of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Victor Cvirkun during his official visit to the Republic of Serbia.

28 July, Belgrade - Serbian Foreign Minister Dacic received Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini.

AUGUST

14 August, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic received the German Bundestag MP Josip Juratovic, a member of the Social Democrat Party of Germany, and informed him about the EU accession negotiating process, as well as of our position in relation to the opening of individual chapters.

20 August, Belgrade - Minister Dacic talked with the Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister of BiH Zlatko Lagumdzija, who paid a working visit to Serbia.

22 August, Berlin – The Serbian Foreign Minister visited Berlin and talked with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the FRG Frank-Walter Steinmeier, MPs of Bundestag Peter Bayer and Axel Schafer and Chancellor Merkel’s Adviser Christoph Heusgen.

28 August, Berlin – Minister Dacic participated in the Conference on the Western Balkans.

29 August - 1 September, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic talked with Canadian MFA John Baird, who was on an official visit to Serbia.

SEPTEMBER

1 September, Bled – Minister Dacic participated in the Bled Strategic Forum, where he met with Slovenian Prime Minister Alenka Bratusek, Foreign Ministers of Slovenia and Sri Lanka Karl Erjavec and Gamini Lakshman Peiris, Deputy Assistant US Secretary of State Hoyt Yi, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Suma Chakrabarti and the Croatian Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee Chairperson, Milorad Pupovac.

1 September, New York - First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic took part in the session of the United Nations Security Council on the work of UNMIK.

8 September, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic talked with the Prosecutor of the newly-established Residual Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals Hassan Jallow, who paid an official visit to Belgrade.

10 September, Baku - At the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan E. Mammadyarov, Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic visited Baku and talked with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Artur Rasizade.

10-12 September, Belgrade - Minister Dacic received a delegation of the Committee for Enlargement of the EU Council (COELA) and informed them of the reform and legislative activities that our country implements with the aim of opening chapters in the negotiation process as soon as possible.

11 September, Belgrade - Member of the Social Democrat Party of Germany Christoph Strasser, the German Government's Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid, visited Serbia and on that occasion met with Minister Dacic.

12 September, Belgrade - Serbian Minister Dacic received Peter Due, representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the UN Office in Belgrade in the context of cooperation between Serbia and the UN concerning the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1244.

15 September, Skopje - Minister Dacic paid his first official visit to the Republic of Macedonia and met with President of the Republic of Macedonia Gjorge Ivanov and Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki. On that occasion, the two Ministers signed the Agreement on the joint use of diplomatic and consular premises.

22-26 September, New York - The Serbian delegation headed by Minister Dacic took part in the general debate of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly. On the margins of the debate Minister Ivica Dacic met with Prime Minister of Tajikistan Kokhir Rasulzoda, Deputy Assistant US Secretary of State Hoyt Yi, MFAs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov, of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov, of Kyrgyzstan Erlan Abdyldaev, of Georgia Maia Panjikidze, of Ukraine Pavlo Klimkin, of RF Sergey Lavrov, of Moldova Natalia German, of Spain J. M. Garcia-Margallo, of Switzerland Didier Burkhalter, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden Carl Bildt, of DPRK Li Su Jong, of Singapore K. Shanmugam, of Cuba Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, of Algeria Ramtane Lamamra, with Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates in charge of foreign affairs Anavar Gargas and NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow.

30 September, Geneva – First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Minister of Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic took part in the 65th session of the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva.

OCTOBER

2 October, Belgrade – Foreign Minister of Serbia Ivica Dacic met with Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Edward Nalbandian. After the talks they signed a Memorandum on

Cooperation between the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

7 October, Moscow – Minister Dacic took part in the 13th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Serbia and the Russian Federation, in his capacity as Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee and Head of the Serbian delegation.

8 October, Belgrade - Minister Dacic and his Austrian counterpart Sebastian Kurz talked in Belgrade.

9 October, Helsinki – Minister Dacic was in Finland where he participated in the conference “OSCE - the development of the security community”.

10 October, Brussels – First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic headed the Serbian delegation to the bilateral screening meeting on Chapter 31: Foreign, security and defence policy.

22 October, Belgrade - Minister Dacic received Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Michael Georg Link within the preparations of our country for taking over the OSCE Chairmanship.

23 October, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic participated in the Conference on the Western Balkans in the WB6 format entitled “Economic Governance and Connectivity”.

29 October, Belgrade - Minister Dacic had a meeting with fifteen Ambassadors from a group of African and Arab countries: Algeria, Angola, Guinea, DR Congo, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and the UAE in order to further strengthen the position of Serbia in the Arab countries, as well as to enhance and intensify bilateral relations with African partners.

31 October, Bratislava - At the annual meeting of Foreign Ministers of the member countries of the Visegrad Group and the Western Balkans, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dacic met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic Miroslav Lajcak and Minister of the Republic of Poland Grzegorz Schetyna.

NOVEMBER

1 November, Belgrade - Foreign Minister of Serbia Ivica Dacic met with Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly Elisabeth Guigou.

5 November, Berlin – Minister Dacic attended the EU-Western Balkans Conference organized by the Aspen Institute, under the auspices of the MFA of the FRG and the UK Foreign Secretary, Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Philip Hammond, with whom he had a bilateral meeting.

6 November, Belgrade - Minister Dacic met with Crown Prince of Norway Haakon Magnus.

7 November, Belgrade - Minister Dacic talked with the new European Parliament’s Rapporteur for Serbia, David McAllister.

12-13 November, Berlin – Minister Dacic visited Berlin to attend the commemorative event on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Berlin Declaration on Anti-Semitism and participated in a meeting of the OSCE Troika (Serbia-Switzerland-Germany).

14 November, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic received Head of the Eastern Partnership, Regional Cooperation and OSCE Division of the European External Action Service Richard Tibbels and EU Ambassador to the OSCE Thierry Besse.

14 November, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic met with State Secretary of the MFA of Latvia Pildegovičs.

17 November, Belgrade - Foreign Minister of Serbia Dacic met with Mohamed Larbi Ould Khelifa, President of the People's National Assembly of DPR Algeria.

18 November, Brussels - First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic headed the Serbian delegation to an international conference held under the auspices of the Italian Presidency of the EU Council and the European Commission, which formally marked the launch of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region (EUSAIR).

20 November, Belgrade - Minister Dacic received European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, Johannes Hahn.

21 November, Belgrade - Minister Ivica Dacic met with the MFA of Hungary Peter Szijarto.

24 November, Copenhagen - Minister Dacic visited Denmark at the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark Martin Lidegard.

25-26 November, Buenos Aires - Minister Dacic met with Foreign Minister of Argentina Hector Timerman. On this occasion they signed the agreements related to the scientific and technological cooperation and cooperation in the field of culture.

27-28 November, Santiago de Chile - During a visit to the Republic of Chile Minister Dacic talked with MFA Heraldo Munoz Valenzuela and with President of the House of Representatives Aldo Cornejo.

30 November -1 December, Minsk - During his official visit to Belarus, Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic spoke with Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich, Chairman of the National Assembly Council of the Republic Anatoly Rubinov and MFA Vladimir Mackay.

DECEMBER

2 December, Brussels - Minister Ivica Dacic participated in the session of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the European Parliament, attended by the WB Foreign Ministers.

3 December, Brussels - Minister Dacic participated in the Ministerial Meeting of the Global Coalition partners in the fight against the Islamic State, at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

4-5 December, Basel – First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic participated in the 21st session of the OSCE Ministerial Council. On this occasion, he met with US Secretary of State John Kerry, British Minister for Europe David Lidington, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland Didier Burkhalter, of the Kingdom of Sweden Margot Wallstrom,

of the Kingdom of Belgium Didier Reynders, of the Netherlands Bert Kunders, of Russia Sergey Lavrov, of Turkey Mevlut Cavusoglu, of Moldova Natalia German, of Georgia Tamar Baruchvashvili, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Damba Gankhuyag, former Canadian MFA John Baird, as well as the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors.

8 December, Belgrade - Minister Dacic met with member of the German Bundestag Nils Annen, a member of the Social Democrat Party of Germany (SPD) and the head of the SPD faction in the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag.

9 – 10 December, Riga - Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic visited the Republic of Latvia, where he met with Prime Minister of Latvia Laimdota Straujuma, Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics and Deputy Speaker of the Latvian Parliament Inese Libina Eque.

16 - 17 December, Belgrade - The Republic of Serbia organized the China – CEEC Summit in Belgrade together with PR China. Minister Ivica Dacic met with MFA of PR China Wang Yi and Hungarian MFA Peter Szijarto.

18 December, Paris – Within the preparations for Serbia's 2015 OSCE Chairmanship, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic spoke with MFA Laurent Fabius.

19 December, Moscow - Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic spoke with MFA of RF Sergey Lavrov.

22-23 December, Kyiv - Minister I. Dacic as the incoming OSCE Chairman had talks with the Ukrainian MFA Pavlo Klimkin, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Eastern Ukraine and the OSCE Representative in the Trilateral Contact Group, Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini, and Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan.

EUROPEAN UNION ACCESSION PROCESS

1. FOCUS ON: WHAT ARE EU MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS?

In order to commence negotiations constituting the final stage of a country's European integration process, it is necessary that the candidate state has previously concluded an Association Agreement, received candidate status and that it is ready to enter the final but, at the same time, the most difficult stage of its European integration. There is a need for aligning the national legislation with the *EU acquis*, divided into 35 chapters, each of which is negotiated separately.

Serbia has made and continues to make significant progress on its European integration path. It signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU on 29 April 2008, as well as the Interim Agreement, while the first specific result was achieved on 19 December 2009 with the entry into force of no visa requirement for the nationals of R. Serbia. The underlying reason for this Council decision where the results achieved by

Serbia in the areas of rights, freedoms and security, and its fulfilment of the requirements set out in the visa liberalisation timetable.

After submitting its EU membership application on 22 December 2009, Serbia was granted candidate status on 01 March 2014.

NEGOTIATING CHAPTERS

1. Free movement of goods
2. Free movement of workers
3. Right of establishment and freedom to provide services
4. Free movement of capital
5. Public procurement
6. Company law
7. Intellectual property
8. Competition
9. Financial services
10. Information society and media
11. Agriculture and rural development
12. Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy
13. Fisheries
14. Transportation policy
15. Energy
16. Taxation
17. Economic and monetary policy
18. Statistics
19. Social policy and employment
20. Entrepreneurship and industrial policy
21. Trans-European networks
22. Regional policy and structural instrument coordination
23. Judiciary and fundamental rights
24. Justice, freedom and security
25. Science and research
26. Education and culture
27. Environment
28. Consumer protection and health care

29. Customs union
30. Foreign economic relations
31. Foreign, security and defence policy
32. Financial control
33. Financial and budgetary provisions
34. Institutions
35. Other issues

2. SPECIAL ISSUE OF KOSOVO AND METOHIJA

Parallel with the process of commencing EU accession negotiations, the Republic of Serbia is making additional efforts aimed at finding sustainable and long-term solutions to the issue of Kosovo and Metohija. This topic is of crucial importance for the negotiations, as well as for Serbia's EU accession. It is almost beyond any doubt that Serbia's progress on its European integration path, i.e. its EU accession will not be possible unless this specific problem is resolved.

The initial steps in the dialogue between the Serbian and Albanian sides, that is, in the gradual resolution of issues difficult to both sides, were made in 2012. The discussions focusing on northern Kosovo and Metohija and the concerns raised by the Serbian community were specifically formulated on 19 April 2013, with the initialling of the First Agreement of principles governing the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina, known as the Brussels Agreement, providing for:

- Creation of the Community of Serbian Municipalities in Kosovo and Metohija;
- Local elections in Serbian municipalities;
- Integrated management of crossing points (IBM);
- Provisional agreement on collection of customs duties, taxes and VAT,
- Agreement in the telecommunications and energy area.

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs related to the EU integration process of the Republic of Serbia in 2014 evolved in the framework of the accession negotiations with the EU, started on 21 January 2014, with the convening of the first EU-Serbia Intergovernmental Conference that adopted the Negotiating Framework and the analytical review of the *EU acquis*, the so-called screening process.

The Ministry initiated and carried out, within the framework of its responsibilities, numerous obligations stemming from the continued political and economic dialogue between the Republic of Serbia and the EU, as well as from the negotiating process, focusing on the commitments defined in the National Programme for the adoption of the EU *acquis*, providing for the legal framework and agenda aimed at positive assessment of the progress made by Serbia.

As regards political dialogue in Serbia's EU integration process, many meetings and talks were held between First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and the then High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and Catherine Ashton and her successor, Federica Mogherini after she took office on 1 November, as well as European Commissioner for Enlargement Stefan Fuele, and other officials from the European Commission, European Council and the European Parliament. Particularly important was the dialogue conducted in 2014 – in the so-called year of European elections (for new European Parliament, European Council and European Commission memberships) with the aim of keeping the focus of EU priorities on the enlargement policy in the period ahead.

A constructive dialogue and cooperation were also maintained with the officials and institutions of the EU Member States holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Greece and Italy. During the Greek Presidency, Minister Dačić participated in the EU – Western Balkans Ministerial Conference in Thessaloniki, in May, organised symbolically on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Thessaloniki Agenda on the European integration of the Western Balkan states, underlining the enlargement policy as one of the most successful EU policies, reaffirming further continuation of EU enlargement to include regional countries, and expressing EU commitment to allocate, by 2020, significant funds totalling one billion euros for the Western Balkans through pre-accession IPA funds and an additional 10 billion euro for regional projects. The Serbian side emphasized the determination of the Serbian Government to carry out reforms in all areas and complete accession negotiations by the end of its mandate in 2018.

Under the Italian Presidency, particularly important was the visit of several days to the Republic of Serbia made by the delegation of the Council's Enlargement Committee, in September, enabling direct discussions between officials and people of the Republic of Serbia and EU representatives dealing with the enlargement process, while making it possible for European diplomats to see first-hand the progress Serbia has made on its European integration path. Minister Dačić informed the Committee delegation of Serbia's reform and legislative activities aimed at the earliest possible opening of the first chapters in the negotiating process, and of Serbia's intensive international agenda and its great many foreign policy activities.

Support for Serbia's EU integration process was reaffirmed also at the meeting of the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee, in December, which Serbian Foreign Minister also

attended. Minister Dačić referred in his statement to the Commission's progress report on Serbia and underlined the determination of the Republic of Serbia to fulfil the objectives defined in its EU integration process. The 2014 Progress Report had a positive tone, underscoring that accession negotiations were underway, that the screening process was unfolding as planned, that progress was achieved in vital domestic reform segments, and that R. Serbia should remain committed to regional cooperation and progress towards normalizing the relations between Belgrade and Pristina, which should be carried out in parallel with the progress of the overall negotiations.

On the home front, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of R. Serbia participated, as member of the Coordinating Body, in the consideration of major issues and directing matters within the responsibility of the state administration in the EU integration process. The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took part, as member of the Coordinating Body Council, in dealing with the current issues relating to the accession process. As member of the negotiating team of the Republic of Serbia, the State Secretary also participated in formulating the negotiating positions and in the negotiations on all chapters and phases of the negotiations. MFA representatives took part in the work of six negotiating groups, whereas the negotiating group on Chapter 31, Common foreign, security and defence policy, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had its explanatory and bilateral screening meetings.

To ensure the monitoring of the implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the Republic of Serbia and the European Union, MFA representatives participated in the work of the Stabilisation and Accession Council dealing with major issues concerning the Agreement's implementation, and in the work of the Stabilisation and Association Committee, addressing specific issues based on the Agreement's implementation, as well as in the work of subcommittees.

Under Article 15 of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, the Republic of Serbia concluded so far bilateral agreements on regional cooperation with countries that signed the SAA, i.e. with Montenegro and Macedonia. The Agreement on cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Montenegro in the context of EU accession, signed by the two Governments on 12 October 2013, following the internal ratification procedures, entered into force on 23 October 2014.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs intensified its overall engagements with EU Member States and European institutions, *inter alia*, through the activities of their diplomatic missions and the Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the EU, whose roles have further increased because of the initiation of the EU negotiating process.

The analytical review and assessment of the alignment of Serbia's legislation with the EU *acquis*, and its screening, constituting the initial phase of negotiations, successfully unfolded in 2014 and are largely coming to an end. By the end of the year, screening meetings (explanatory and bilateral) on 25 negotiating chapters were completed, that is explanatory screening meetings were held on additional seven chapters. The EC work schedule envisages that the full screening process for 35 chapters will be completed by the end of March 2015.

Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participate in the work of the following negotiating groups: on Chapter 23 (Judiciary and fundamental rights), Ch. 24 (Justice, freedom and security) and Ch. 30 (Foreign relations), while they are responsible for the Negotiating Group on Chapter 31 (Common foreign and security policy). They participated, in July and October 2014, in explanatory and bilateral screening meetings on chapters 30 and 31. Serbia's delegation to bilateral screening meeting on Chapter 31 (10 October 2014) was headed by Minister Ivica Dačić.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the drafting of the Action Plan for Chapter 24, visa policy and visa regime areas, and established the basic guidelines for the further harmonisation of the regulations and practices related to this matter.

In the framework of activities concerning Negotiating Chapter 30 (Foreign relations), that is, Sub-Chapter "Development and Humanitarian Assistance Policy" for which it is directly responsible, the MFA appointed a Permanent Rapporteur for the said Chapter and initiated the procedure for setting up an internal working group.

Under the provisions of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and following the Agreement's entry into force on 1 September 2013, joint Serbia - EU bodies were created to ensure its implementation, such as the Stabilisation and Association Council, Stabilisation and Association Committee and the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee.

State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Roksanda Ninčić attended, as member of the Stabilisation and Association Council (the highest body under SAA, responsible for oversight, implementation and resolution of major issues arising from the Agreement or its implementation), the second SAC session in Brussels, on 17 December.

MFA representatives, headed by then State Secretary in the MFA Dr Snežana Janković, participated in the work of the inaugural session of the Stabilisation and Association Committee (an operational body assisting the Council in the performance of its duties), held in Belgrade, on 4 March 2014.

MFA/EU Sector representatives participate in the work of joint oversight/administrative committees under IPA programme cross-border cooperation in 2007-2013, and Working Groups for the preparation of IPA programme cross-border cooperation in 2014-2020. There are currently six programmes in the Republic of Serbia whose implementation is in progress: with Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

In 2014, the Republic of Serbia continued to align itself with EU declarations and contribute to coordinated action with the EU in the framework of some international organizations, in line with its foreign policy interests.

Through its diplomatic/consular network, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs significantly contributes to the successful implementation of the Agreement between the European Community and R. Serbia on Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorisation. The Ministry also regularly informs both the EU and its Member States on the measures taken by R. Serbia to reduce the number of unfounded asylum applications submitted in the respective countries by its citizens.

4. REGIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Pursuing one of the foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued, in 2014, to intensify regional cooperation through regional initiatives, not only by coordinating great many activities, but also by taking an active part in them.

SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROCESS

Honouring the agreements reached at the Ministerial meeting, attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dačić, that preceded the summit, R. Serbia agreed – at the Summit of the Southeast European Cooperation Process (SEECP), held on 25 June 2014 in Bucharest, to the participation of Kosovo and Metohija which unilaterally declared its independence from Serbia (with an asterisk and the well-known text in the footnote), in the SEECP activities, on an equal footing, in accordance with the Agreement on Regional Representation and Cooperation and under the Brussels Agreement. In this way, Serbia fulfilled its obligation stemming from the Summit Declaration that it would not prevent or block the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo and Metohija in the European integration process, without changing Serbia's position in respect of the UDI status of Kosovo and Metohija or departing from its positions regarding the framework for the designation and representation of UDI Kosovo and Metohija under UNSC resolution 1244 and the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice.

WESTERN BALKANS CONFERENCE IN THE “WB6” FORMAT

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs played the key role in the preparation of the Western Balkans Conference in the “WB6” format, held in Belgrade, on 23 October: *Western Balkans Conference, Economic Governance and Connectivity*. The meeting had multiple political and economic importance, primarily as the natural follow-up to the Berlin Western Balkans Conference, held on 28 August, and due to the fact that it was for the first time that regional Ministers, including the Ministerial level of Pristina PISG, came together in Belgrade, with the support of the European Commission and the Regional Cooperation Council.

EU STRATEGY FOR THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN REGION

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of R. Serbia Ivica Dačić headed the Serbian delegation to the international conference in Brussels, on 18 November, held under the auspices of the Italian Presidency of the EU Council and the European Commission, which marked the formal launching of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (*EUSAIR*). In 2014, Serbia continued the activities related to the drawing up and adoption of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, and coordinated with Italy Pillar 2 of the Strategy, “Connecting the region” (transport and energy). As regards other themes, Serbia focused particularly on “increasing regional attractiveness” (tourism) and “preservation of the ecosystems” (environment).

At the MFA proposal, the Government of R. Serbia adopted the decision, at its meeting of 7 December 2014, on the establishment of the Working Group for cooperation with the EU in the Adriatic-Ionian region, tasked to propose – in coordination with the relevant state administration authorities – measures aimed at cooperation with the European Commission and other states signatory to the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region in the implementation of the EUSAIR, and also to recommend other measures related to the Adriatic and Ionian region.

EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

Minister Dačić headed the Serbian delegation to the 3rd Annual Forum related to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (*EUSDR*), held in Vienna, from 26-27 June, as well as to the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Danube countries, also in Vienna, 26 June. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is active, on the Deputy National Coordinator level, in the work of the Working Group on the Danube river basin, created by the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

WESTERN BALKANS FUND

In 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was active in continuing the work on the establishment of the Western Balkans Fund (WBF), modelled on the International Višegrad Fund (IVF), to be seated in Tirana.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

1. NEIGHBOURING AND SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Serbia is firmly committed to fully develop bilateral relations, both with its immediate neighbours and with all countries of the SEE region. Particular attention is devoted to the promotion of bilateral relations with the states created in the territory of the former SFRY. Serbia is pursuing an active policy aimed at strengthening international confidence and at the establishment of good neighbourly relations and cooperation, in line with its efforts to contribute to the strengthening of peace and stability in the region. Serbia is conducting intensive bilateral cooperation and exchanging visits with all neighbouring countries, while it has substantive cooperation with most of its neighbours in many regional initiatives (CEI, SEECP, AII, MARRI, BSEC). Furthermore, Serbia has achieved highly beneficial forms of trilateral cooperation in its relations with the neighbouring countries. Serbia's commitment to enhancing its relations with all the regional countries was affirmed by the holding of the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Economic Affairs of the Western Balkans countries, and of the international financial institution representatives (October 2014, Belgrade), while particular importance was attached to the China – CEEC Summit (December 2014, Belgrade).

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Serbia is active in the normalisation of its relations with Albania, fully respecting the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs. The events preceding the visit by Prime Minister Eddie Rama, in November (flying a drone with the map of "Great Albania" at the football match in Belgrade, in October, which resulted in the postponement of the visit), as well as the Albanian PM's inappropriate behaviour at the press conference with PM Aleksandar Vučić, and his statements during the visit to Preševo have considerably exacerbated the bilateral relations between the two countries, but the tension was somewhat eased later on, at the subsequent meeting between the two Prime Ministers, during the China – CEEC Summit in Belgrade, in December. The two countries are interested in the enhancement of their cooperation in the infrastructure sector, which is important to the region (road and rail transport, connection of electric power systems, gas supply diversification).

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Development of high-level relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to be among Serbia's priorities. Serbia, as one of the guarantors of the Dayton Peace Agreement, supports the

territorial integrity of BiH, but also the status of the Republic of Srpska under this Agreement. It also supports every agreement between the three peoples and two entities, reached by consensus. In addition to pursuing the relations with the central BiH authorities at a high level, further development of special, parallel ties with the Republic of Srpska continues to be a priority interest. There is an intensive political dialogue between Serbia and BiH at the highest level. Within the framework of this dialogue, both sides expressed an interest in intensifying their efforts aimed at addressing outstanding issues including borders, missing persons and refugees, and implementation of the Succession Agreement. The meetings at the highest level drew attention to the importance of all forms of cooperation, particularly focusing on the promotion of economic cooperation with both entities, and on European integration and cross-border cooperation. A proof of the great importance that Serbia attaches to its bilateral cooperation with BiH was the visit of Prime Minister Vučić to Sarajevo, on 13 May, as his first visit to a country after the elections. The previous period was also characterized by the working visit of Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Zlatko Lagumdžija to Belgrade, from 19-20 August; BiH Council of Ministers Chairman Vjekoslav Bevanda headed the BiH delegation to the China – CEEC Summit in Belgrade, while Chairman of the BiH Presidency Mladen Ivanić also paid a working visit to Belgrade, on 24 December. Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of Serbia's most important foreign trade partners. In 2014, overall trade amounted to approximately 1.4 billion euro, of which Serbia's exports totalled 993 million euro, while BiH exports were 403 million euro. Serbian investment at almost 900 million euro, ranks it among the major BiH investors.

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Bilateral relations with Bulgaria have been good and stable, characterized by a satisfactory intensity of political dialogue. In addition to numerous high official meetings (then PM Ivica Dačić participated in the trilateral meeting on the level of Prime Ministers of Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania, in the town of Ruse, Bulgaria, on 7 March, while former MFA of Bulgaria Kristian Vigenin paid a return visit to Serbia, on 3 July), there was a number of meetings with Ministers in charge of different government departments, including meetings on the margins of international meetings. In all of these contacts, the Bulgarian side expressed its readiness to share its experience in the EU accession negotiations, and particularly to draw attention to the missteps made in the process. There is a mutual interest and readiness to further promote economic cooperation, particularly in energy and infrastructure sectors, as well as cooperation on cross-border projects. Economic cooperation is developing predominantly through trade. According to the trade volume, Bulgaria is among Serbia's major trading partners. In 2014, overall foreign trade totalled 596.7 million euro, of which Serbian exports amounted to 287.8 million euro, and imports 308.9 million euro. In addition to trade, most important areas of economic cooperation are transport, energy, tourist industry and cross-border cooperation.

ROMANIA

Bilateral relations with Romania have been traditionally good. Both sides confirmed their commitment to intensive and constructive political dialogue at all levels, and continued exploration of possibilities for advancing their cooperation and addressing all open issues. Romanian Prime Minister Viktor Ponta paid an official visit to Serbia in July. On that occasion, a meeting was organized for the first time on that level, with representatives of the Romanian national minority. Serbia particularly appreciates the fact that, despite many international pressures, Romania is not inclined to changing its principled position regarding non-recognition of the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo. As regards possibilities of further promoting the relations between the two countries, a particular potential is seen in the areas of economy and infrastructure (construction of Belgrade-Timisoara motorway), energy (construction of Pančevo-Resica power line, Arad-Mokrin pipeline and Constanta-Pitesti-Pančevo oil pipeline), cross-border and regional cooperation. Romania is Serbia's important economic partner, demonstrating a continued interest in the implementation of economic and infrastructural projects. In the first eight months of 2014, exports to Romania totalled 371 million euro, while imports amounted to 265.2 million euro.

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Bilateral relations between Serbia and Macedonia have been significantly enhanced in the period under review, by visits on the highest and high levels (visits were exchanged on the levels of Presidents and Foreign Ministers; Serbian Prime Minister visited Macedonia, while President of Sobranje paid a visit to Serbia), as well as by the preparations for holding the Second Joint Session of the two Governments, scheduled for the beginning of 2015). There is readiness on both sides to intensify cooperation on major infrastructural projects in the region (speed railways and gas supplies).

HUNGARY

Serbia is committed to further intensifying its bilateral relations with Hungary. A sound foundation to that effect was provided by the holding of the first Summit between the Governments of Serbia and Hungary in Belgrade, on 1 July 2014. Both sides took the opportunity to confirm their commitment to furthering the upward trend in their bilateral relations, strengthening cooperation in the areas of mutual interest – economy in the first place, and continuation of political dialogue at all levels. Hungary's support for Serbia's European integration and common determination to intensify cooperation in this area, as well as in the implementation of infrastructural projects on the regional level (reconstruction of Belgrade-Budapest railway from the Chinese fund for Central and East European countries) were particularly reaffirmed. The two countries confirmed their resolve to address all the issues

concerning the position of the Hungarian minority in Serbia, and the Serbian minority in Hungary through an open and effective bilateral dialogue. From January-September 2014, Serbia's exports to Hungary totalled 214.3 million euro, while imports amounted to 559.9 million euro.

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Serbia is committed to the establishment of good-neighbourly relations with Croatia, based on true European values, and specific contribution to regional stabilisation and development. Serbia's interest in its relations with Croatia are reflected in the intensification of political dialogue on the high and highest levels; intensification of the work of joint inter-state committees to the effect of addressing open issues; enhancement of economic, cultural and other forms of cooperation and further relaxation of tensions in mutual relations; cooperation in Serbia's European integration process and separation of this process from the process of resolving outstanding issues between the two countries. Overall foreign trade in 2014 totalled 7567.7 million euro, out of which Serbia's exports were 344.4 million euro, while imports from Croatia were 412.2 million euro.

MONTENEGRO

The relations with Montenegro are characterized by an intensive political dialogue on a high level and regular meetings among officials, which have brought about progress in bilateral relations. The European integration process, regional stability and progress, and progress in the economic area have been affirmed as common priority objectives. The two countries have supported each other in the EU integration process, based on the Agreement on Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Montenegro in the context of their EU accession. Serbia is one of Montenegro's major economic partners. There is a mutual interest in enhancing economic cooperation and implementation of joint infrastructure projects (Belgrade-Bar railway reconstruction and Bar-Belgrade motorway construction), and in the energy area (the Drina River basin, Komarnica River, setting an underwater cable from Montenegro to Italy). In this connection, plans have been made for holding the first joint meeting between the two Governments in Belgrade, in 2015. Serbia has a significant surplus in its trade with Montenegro. In 2014, trade amounted to 618.6 million euro (568 exports; 20.6 imports).

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Bilateral relations with Slovenia are good and stable, characterized by a dynamic and open political dialogue, which has been particularly intensified in the second half of 2014 by the visits of President Borut Pahor and then Prime Minister Alenka Bratusek. The existing meeting dynamics was continued by the participation of Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dačić at the

Bled Strategic Forum (1-2 September). A high level of solidarity was demonstrated by the fact that Slovenia was among the first to send humanitarian assistance and support to Serbia, and take an active part – together with EC and France, in organizing a Donors' Conference for R. Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Brussels, on 16 July. A particularly high quality of relations has been seen in Slovenia's continued support for Serbia's further European integration process, considering the administrative, organizational and financial complexity of the EU negotiating process, and the fact that it constitutes our foreign policy priority. The meeting of the Joint Committee with Slovenia was held in June, while bilateral political consultations and consultations related to the EU were held on the level of Assistant Ministers or Directors General of the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs, in Belgrade, on 15 October. These meetings confirmed good relations with Slovenia and its readiness to support the further European path of Serbia. The visit of HR for Succession Issues Prof Dr Rodoljub Etinski was also very important, as well as the bilateral consultations related to the application of the ruling of the European Court for Human Rights in Ljubljana, 10-11 November 2014.

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Serbia considers Turkey an important regional factor, with which it wishes to maintain constructive relations. Cooperation with Turkey has been developing in the context of regional cooperation, as an element of regional stabilisation and development, and enhancement of bilateral dialogue in all areas of common interest. In order to further advance political dialogue and strengthen cooperation in the economic area, bilateral political consultations were held between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Turkey, in Belgrade, on 14 April, while consultations between the two Ministries in the area of security policies were held in Ankara, on 29 May. At the invitation of Foreign Minister Dačić, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey Ahmet Davutoglu visited Belgrade, on 10 June.

REPUBLIC OF ITALY

The relations with Italy are stable and are developing on the basis of established strategic partnership (2009). The mechanism of holding joint sessions between the two Governments has been established, and three such meetings have been held so far. Italy is one of Serbia's key partners in Serbia's EU integration process. A Joint Declaration providing for the creation of a Bilateral Committee on Cooperation within the EU Framework (an expert body), expected to facilitate the negotiations by negotiating chapters, was signed at the third joint session between the two Governments, held in Ancona, on 15 October 2013. Italy is Serbia's major economic partner and is always one of Serbia's top three trading partners, and the foremost investor according to the total funds invested and the number of investment projects (61). These relations have been maintained at a high level, and the objective of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to be ensuring Italy's support for Serbia's efforts aimed at achieving its key priorities.

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Serbia has continued its traditionally friendly relations with the Hellenic Republic, in which there are no outstanding issues. Despite strong pressures, Greece did not recognize the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo and Metohija nor did it downsize its KFOR troops. A regular political dialogue has been maintained between Serbia and Greece, and there is an intention to intensify it. Serbia expects the joint session between the two Governments to take place at the earliest possible date. An informal meeting, on the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of EU Member States and candidate countries, was held in Thessaloniki, on 8 May, attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of R. Serbia Ivica Dačić. Greece is one of the EU Member States extending strong support to the European integration of Serbia, and the entire SEE region. There is a mutual interest in the implementation of infrastructural projects (extension of the fast railway Belgrade - Budapest to connect with the modernized Belgrade - Skopje – Thessaloniki – Athens railway). Bilateral economic cooperation is particularly developed in areas of banking, energy, real estate, hotel management and cement industry. In 2014, Serbia's exports totalled 126 million euro, whereas its imports amounted to 230 million euro.

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

The relations with Cyprus have been traditionally friendly and characterized by political dialogue, exchange of visits at the highest level, support to Serbia in its EU integration process and by non-recognition of the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo and Metohija. High quality relations with Cyprus and its support of Serbia on all issues significant to our country resulted in the Summit meeting in Belgrade, in January 2013, at which the Memorandum on the establishment of enhanced partnership was signed, defining the relations between the two countries as a strategic partnership, envisaging holding of regular summit meetings with the participation of Presidents, Prime Ministers and members of the Governments of the two countries. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus Joanis Kasulidis visited Belgrade on 24-25 February 2014.

2. EUROPE

Continuation of the European integration process featured as the central issue in the course of 2014 as well. Apart from a significant number of high-level meetings that the Minister of Foreign Affairs had with officials from European countries, primarily from EU Member States, one should highlight the progress made as a result of the efforts invested by all state institutions

in the implementation of reforms and, at the same time, the progress made in the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue.

In addition to ensuring the follow-up on the political dialogue, the trend of enhancing relations with European countries has been maintained bilaterally, in the framework of parliamentary cooperation and in the cooperation with international organizations and regional initiatives.

KINGDOM OF SPAIN

Serbia's bilateral relations with the Kingdom of Spain have been very good, with no outstanding issues. Spain actively supports Serbia in the implementation of its foreign policy priorities relating to European integration and non-recognition of the unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo and Metohija, and lends a strong friendly support to Serbian efforts invested in the negotiating process. Ministers Ivica Dacic and Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo met on the margins of the UNGA in New York, in September. In the first two months of 2014 Serbian exports amounted to

EUR 13 736 million and Serbian imports to EUR 25 372 million.

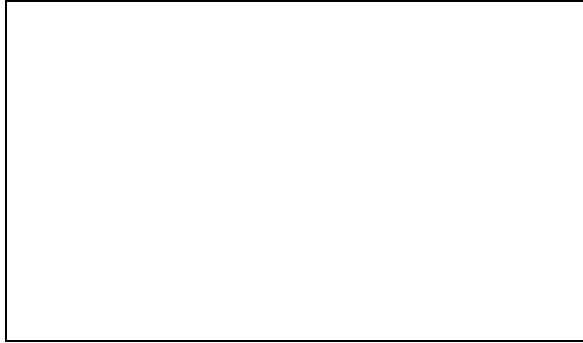
PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC

Good and stable relations with the Portuguese Republic have been maintained in continuity. The visit that Mr. Bruno Maçães, Portuguese Secretary of State for Europe, made to Belgrade on 4 July, contributed to the enhancement of the very good bilateral relations existing with the Portuguese Republic.

FRENCH REPUBLIC

Chairperson of the French Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, Élisabeth Guigou visited Serbia on 1 November, on which occasion she met Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic.

During his working visit to France on 18 December, Minister Ivica Dacic talked to French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, in the context of Serbia's preparations for the OSCE Chairmanship. The role of the OSCE in the settlement of the Ukrainian crisis featured as the topic of the talks between the two officials, as well as the Serbia- EU negotiating process, where French support to the further process of Serbia's European integration was reaffirmed.



FDPM and MFA Ivica Dacic and French MFA Laurent Fabius

Total trade in goods in 2014 amounted to around EUR 745 million (exports were 313.5m, while imports were 431.6m).

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

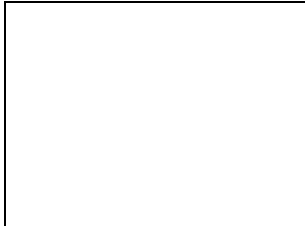
Activities had been maintained last year with the aim of further intensification of bilateral relations with the Slovak Republic, having in mind that Slovakia is one of the five EU Member States that did not recognize the unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo and Metohija, and that it had continuously supported Serbia's European path. A dynamic political dialogue was maintained at all levels in the relations with Slovakia. Minister Ivica Dacic met on several occasions the Slovak

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Miroslav Lajčák- on the fringes of the EU- Western Balkans Ministerial Conference that took place in Thessaloniki between 7 and 8 May, during the visit of the Slovak Minister to Serbia between 9 and 10 May, on the margins of the Donors' Conference for Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in Brussels, on 16 July, and on the margins of the Visegrad Group (V4) and the Western Balkans Annual Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Bratislava on 31 October.

UNITED KINGDOM

The trend from the previous year has been maintained. Bilateral relations with the United Kingdom were further enhanced, particularly with regards to a dynamic political dialogue. Minister Dacic met the FCO Minister of State for Europe David Lidington, during Mr.

Lidington's working visit to Belgrade that took place in June, as well as in December on the margins of the OSCE Ministerial Meeting in Basel. Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic met Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond in November, on the margins of the EU-Western Balkans Conference held in Berlin.



Minister Ivica Dacic meets FCO Minister of State for Europe David Lidington

In October, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic took part in the *Serbia Investment Day* economic conference in London, and met on the occasion First Secretary of State and Leader of the House of Commons William Hague and Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond. In 2014, exports amounted to EUR 116 million, while imports amounted to EUR 182 million, total trade in goods being EUR 298 million.

KINGDOM OF NORWAY

Good and stable relations with the Kingdom of Norway have maintained their continuity, along with a regular political dialogue held at all levels. Minister of Foreign Affairs Børge Brende was on a working visit to Belgrade in June, on which occasion he met Minister Dacic. Norwegian Crown Prince Haakon visited Belgrade in November, on which occasion he met the Serbian Foreign Minister.

SWISS CONFEDERATION

Following the agreement on the consecutive OSCE Chairmanships in 2014 and 2015, and the intensification of cooperation in this regard, the political relations between Serbia and Switzerland assumed a new dimension that would make an additional contribution to the advancement of the overall bilateral cooperation. In this context, we would like to underscore the meetings Minister Dacic had with the Swiss President and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Didier Burkhalter at the 21st OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel, on 5 December, on the margins of the commemorative high-level meeting marking the 10th anniversary of the Berlin Declaration on Anti-Semitism in Berlin, held on 12 and 13 November, and the two officials' meeting on the margins of the 69th session of the UNGA, on 25 September. Trade in goods in 2014 amounted to EUR 257.5 million, out of which Serbian exports were EUR 74.4 million, and imports EUR 183.1 million.

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

The year-round political dialogue with the Kingdom of Belgium was maintained owing to the meeting between First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dacic and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium Didier Reynders, held during the 21st OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel, in December.

KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

Bilateral relations maintained with the Kingdom of the Netherlands are characterized by a sustained high-level political dialogue, along with constant expression of support to Serbia's European integration process. The then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Frans Timmermans visited Serbia with a group of the Dutch entrepreneurs during the Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad that took place in May, on which occasion he met Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dacic. The Serbian Foreign Minister had two meetings with the Dutch MFA, on the margins of international meetings. Minister Dacic met the former Dutch MFA Frans Timmermans at the 124th CoE Ministerial Meeting in Vienna, and the newly-appointed MFA Bert Koenders at the 21st OSCE Ministerial Meeting in Basel in December.

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

The political dialogue with the Republic of Poland is regular, and the bilateral relations are traditionally good. Minister Dacic met Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna on the margins of the Annual Meeting of the Visegrad Group (V4) and Western Balkans Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Bratislava, on 31 October. In the January – July 2014 period, trade in goods amounted to approximately EUR 594 million, out of which Serbian exports amounted to 133.45, while imports amounted to EUR 461 million.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

What marked the year 2014 were the activities aimed at the enhancement of bilateral relations with the Federal Republic of Germany, having in mind its significance and influence, particularly in the domain of European policy, and the fact that Germany is one of Serbia's most important foreign trading partners and investors. A regular and intensive high-level political dialogue is conducted with the Federal Republic of Germany. Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic visited Berlin on 22nd August, when he met Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Frank-

Walter Steinmeier, Bundestag MPs Peter Beyer and Axel Schäfer, as well as Christoph Heusgen, Chancellor Angela Merkel's Advisor.



FDPM and MFA Ivica Dacic and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Minister Dacic took part in the Sixth Conference of the WB MFAs in Berlin, on 5 November, organized by the Aspen Institute Germany, and co-sponsored by the MFAs of the FRG and UK, Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Philip Hammond, and between 12 and 13 November at the Commemorative Event on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Berlin Declaration on Anti-Semitism, and at the OSCE Troika meeting- Switzerland, Serbia, Federal Republic of Germany.

In 2014, the Serbian Foreign Minister met with several German MPs - Thorsten Frei (CDU), between 10 and 12 June, Josip Juratovic (SPD), between 13 and 14 August, MP Christoph Strässer (SPD), Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid, between 11 and 14 September, and MP Niels Annen (SPD), on 5 December 2014.

Minister Dacic met Director for Basic Issues of EU External Relations and Relations with EU Member States, German Federal Foreign Office, on the margins of the Croatia Forum, held between 11 and 12 July 2014 in Dubrovnik.

In 2014, foreign trade in goods increased by more than 6% over the previous year and amounted to EUR 3183.2 million - exports to the FRG increased by 1.8% reaching EUR 1330.1 million, while imports from the FRG increased by 9.1% and amounted to EUR 1853.1 million.

REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

Bilateral relations with the Republic of Austria, maintained at a high level, have been stable and all-encompassing. Relations between the two countries have been defined by a large number of the Serbs and citizens of Serbian descent living in Austria, as well as by a joint policy reflected in the process of Serbian European integration. The relations with Austria were characterized with, apart from an intensive political dialogue and good regional cooperation, intensive defence and police cooperation, and cooperation in the area of culture. First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dacic visited Vienna on several occasions, with the aim of participating in international and regional meetings - at the 124th Ministerial session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (5-6 May) and in the 2014 WB Conference and the Annual Meeting of CEI Foreign Ministers (2-3 June).

Minister Dacic and the Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and International Affairs Sebastian Kurz had talks during Minister Kurz's visit to Belgrade, on 8 October.

Total trade in goods in 2014 amounted to EUR 748 million. Serbian exports amounted to EUR 264.6 million, and imports to EUR 483.4 million.

KINGDOM OF DENMARK

A continued political dialogue was maintained between the Republic of Serbia and the Kingdom of Denmark in the course of 2014. Minister Dacic visited the Kingdom of Denmark on 24 November, when he had a meeting with the Danish MFA Martin Lidegaard. Trade in goods by the end of November 2014 totalled EUR 113 million. Serbian exports amounted to 32.7, while imports amounted to EUR 80.2 million.

REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

Bilateral relations between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Latvia were maintained at the level of regular political dialogue. Serbia has no diplomatic or consular mission in Riga - the

Serbian Embassy in Stockholm covers relations with Latvia on a non-resident basis. Latvia's Ambassador in Strasbourg covers Serbia. Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic visited Riga (9-10 December) and met on the occasion Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs. The Serbian Foreign Minister met the State Secretary of the Latvian Foreign Ministry Pildegovičs, on the margins of the Preparatory Meeting of National Coordinators, on the eve of the China-CEEC Summit, which took place in Belgrade, on 14 November. Total trade in goods in the first eleven months of 2014 amounted to approximately EUR 7.6 million, out of which Serbian exports amounted to EUR 4.5 million, and imports to EUR 3.1 million.

KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

The Republic of Serbia and the Kingdom of Sweden have had long-standing relations and good cooperation, reaffirmed by a strong Swedish support for Serbia's EU path. A regular political dialogue was maintained in 2014 as well. The Serbian Foreign Minister met the former Swedish MFA Carl Bildt (24 September), at the 69th Session of the UNGA in New York, and with the incumbent Foreign Minister Margot Wallström (5 December), on the margins of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel. Trade in goods in the first eleven months of 2014 amounted to EUR 199,578 million, out of which Serbian exports amounted to EUR 45,578 million, and imports to EUR 154,009 million.

REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

The normal trend of the political dialogue between Serbia and Finland concerning Serbia's European integration was maintained last year. Minister Dacic took part in the Helsinki conference "OSCE - Towards a Security Community" (early October), where he had a bilateral meeting with the Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja.

Good political relations constitute the basis for the solidification of economic cooperation between the two countries. Their trade in value terms in the first six months amounted to approximately EUR 43 million, out of which Serbian exports amounted to EUR 5.8 million, imports to EUR 36.9 million.

3. RUSSIA AND EURASIA

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Republic of Serbia and the Russian Federation foster centuries-long, traditionally friendly relations, based on multi-faceted cooperation, linguistic, spiritual and cultural proximity, mutual

understanding and support. The strategic character of contemporary relations between the two countries mirrors an intensive political high-level and top-level dialogue, constant enhancement of bilateral cooperation in all areas, and close positions concerning the majority of current international issues. The relations existing between Serbia and Russia entered a new stage in terms of their quality when Presidents Tomislav Nikolic and Vladimir Putin signed the Declaration on Strategic Partnership.

The visit that Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic made to Moscow on 7 February, when the Sochi Winter Olympic Games were opened, and the visit made by Russian President Vladimir Putin to the Republic of Serbia (16 October), on the occasion of commemorating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Belgrade in WWII, additionally reaffirmed the developed and all-round relations between the two countries. As a result of a continued work on the advancement of the contractual and legal basis, several bilateral agreements were signed during President Putin's visit: on mutual protection of intelligence, on readmission and military and technical cooperation; memorandum of understanding in the area of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, and the protocol on exchange of information concerning customs value of goods traded between Serbia and Russia.

In the course of 2014, in parallel with the political cooperation, economic relations developed successfully, and the fact that the trade in goods exceeded EUR 2 500 000 000, a 300-million rise in comparison with 2013, testifies to this trend. The XIII session of the Serbia-Russia Intergovernmental Committee on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, acting as a permanent instrument of shaping and monitoring the development of overall economic relations between the two states, was held in Moscow, between 6 and 8 October.



Foreign Ministers Dacic and Lavrov

REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

The high-level and top-level dialogue between Serbia and Belarus was intensified over the past two years. The President of Belarus, Mr. Aleksandr Lukashenko, made a return visit to Serbia between 11 and 12 June, while Minister Dacic made official visits to Belarus on 30 November and 1 December. The Agreement on Defence Cooperation was signed during the visit made by Serbian Minister of Defence B. Gasic to Belarus (10-12 November). An MP Group of Friendship with Belarus was formed in the Serbian Parliament. Trade in goods in 2014 amounted to EUR 119 043 000 (exports were EUR 54 689 000 and imports EUR 64 354 000). Serbian Film Days were held in Minsk (18-20 June), while Belgrade hosted “Belarus Film Days” (12-14 November).

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The political dialogue between the two countries is chiefly maintained at international and regional meetings. Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic met the then Prime Minister of Moldova Iurie Leancă, in Romania (22 June), while Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Moldova Ivica Dacic and Natalia Gherman had meetings on the margins of the following meetings: SEECP (meeting of Foreign Ministers), that took place in Bucharest, on 20 June, when the two counterparts signed the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters), general debate of the 69th session of the UNGA (New York, 24 September), OSCE Ministerial Council (Basel, 4 December). The Agreement on Abolition of Visas applicable to the two countries’ nationals was signed on 23 December. Trade in goods amounted to EUR 54 211 000, out of which Serbian exports amounted to 12 746 000, and imports to EUR 41 465 000.

UKRAINE

Bilateral relations between the Republic of Serbia and Ukraine are characterized by friendship and understanding. Mr. Ivan Mrkic, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Serbian President, represented Serbia at the inauguration of the Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko (4 June). First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dacic met Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin on the margins of the 69th UNGA general debate (23 September, New York). Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic visited Kyiv on 23 December, on the eve of the assumption of the OSCE Chairmanship. Total trade in goods amounted to EUR 196 427 000 (Serbian exports- EUR 75 529 000, imports- EUR 120 898 000).

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Armenia are maintained on a non-resident basis via Serbian and Armenian Embassies in Athens. The bilateral dialogue with Armenia was intensified in the course of 2014, when Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian visited Belgrade (1-2 October), and when Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic visited Yerevan (10-12 October). President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan decorated on the occasion President Tomislav Nikolic with the Order of Glory for the President's contribution to the strengthening and development of relations between the two countries, while President Nikolic decorated the Honorary Consul of Serbia in Armenia, Dr. Babken Simonyan, with the Gold Medal of Merit, for extraordinary merits in public and cultural activities and representing Serbia in Armenia. Trade in goods amounted to EUR 1 353 000 (Serbian exports- 1 278 000, imports- 75 000).

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The past three years witnessed a powerful development of bilateral relations and cooperation, with the maintenance of a continued political high-level and top-level dialogue. At the invitation of the MFA of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister Dacic made an official visit to Baku (9-10 September). Trade in goods in 2014 amounted to EUR 12 151 000 (Serbian exports EUR 11 835 000, imports EUR 316 000), while the construction of the motorway E-763 section (Ljig-Preljina, Corridor 11) represents the most important project in terms of bilateral economic cooperation.

GEORGIA

The Republic of Serbia currently covers Georgia on a non-resident basis from the Kyiv Embassy, while Georgia covers Serbia from Athens. The bilateral dialogue between Serbia and Georgia has modest intensity, and is chiefly maintained on the margins of international meetings. The current level of economic cooperation does not correspond to the potentials and needs of the two countries, exemplified in the fact that their trade in goods in 2014 reached EUR 12 380 000 (Serbian exports EUR 9 341 000, imports EUR 3 039 000).

COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL ASIA: REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN, AND THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

The Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are covered by Serbia on a non-resident basis via its Embassy in Moscow, while the Serbian consular and diplomatic mission

operates in Kazakhstan. On the fringes of the 69th session of the UNGA, Minister Ivica Dacic met Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan (22 September); Prime Minister of Tajikistan Qohir Rasulzoda (23 September); Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Erlan Abdyldaev (25 September) and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov (26 September). Trade in goods between Serbia and Kazakhstan in 2014 amounted to EUR 161.288 million. MP Groups of Friendship with Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan exist in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

4. ASIA, AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Republic of Serbia has maintained decades-long friendly relations and cooperation with the countries of the Asian and Pacific region. Initiatives aimed at further enhancement of political relations and economic cooperation were launched, including infrastructural projects and cooperation in other areas. Efforts aimed at reaffirming the support of the countries belonging in this region to Serbia's sovereignty and territorial integrity were also reinvigorated.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The relations between Serbia and China have been characterized by the traditional friendship, mutual understanding and trust, including support on major issues. Serbia is the first country in the region of Central and Eastern Europe to establish a strategic partnership with China. China is a strategic partner and one of the main pillars of Serbia's foreign policy (Joint Statement on the Establishment of the Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Serbia and the People's Republic of China, 20 August 2009, and the Joint Statement on the Deepening of Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Serbia and the People's Republic of China, 26 August 2013).

CHINA-CEEC SUMMIT

Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic met Premier Li Keqiang at the Summer Davos Forum in Tianjin (10-12 September), when the Chinese side agreed that the China-CEEC Summit be co-hosted with Serbia between 16 and 17 December in Belgrade. Premier Li Keqiang visited Serbia between 15 and 18 December, on which occasion the Third China-CEEC Summit was held in Belgrade. The Chinese Premier had a meeting with President Tomislav Nikolic, while Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic had a separate meeting with the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi. The visit made by Premier Li Keqiang can be deemed historic, since it took place 28 years after the visit of a Chinese Premier to the Republic of Serbia, and represents a significant progress in enriching the substance of the strategic partnership between the two

countries. A large number of agreements¹ adding fresh impetus to the implementation of the projects and new forms of cooperation agreed on so far have been entered into, all aimed to increase Chinese investments. Fourteen Prime Ministers and three Vice-Premiers participated in the Summit, also attended by a large number of business entrepreneurs who took part at the China-CEEC Business Forum held in parallel with the Summit. A joint document titled the Belgrade Guidelines was adopted by the meeting, defining, along with the review of the results achieved so far, future forms of cooperation. This was the most significant international event organized in Serbia in the past period.



FDPM and MFA Ivica Dacic meets Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi

China is Serbia's most significant trading partner in Asia. The volume of trade in goods has been marked by an ascending line and a large deficit on the Serbian side (in 2014, trade in goods amounted to USD 1.58 billion, out of which Serbian exports were solely USD 14.2 million).

The eleventh session of the Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation is due to take place in the course of 2015, in Beijing.

A special segment of the strategic partnership between Serbia and China is tied up to the implementation of large infrastructural and energy projects. The Zemun-Borca Bridge (project valued at USD 255 million) was formally opened during the visit of Premier Li Keqiang; revitalization of Kostolac Thermal Power Plant is drawing to a close (USD 344 million), while preparatory works for the construction of the Obrenovac-Ljig motorway (USD 334 million) are underway. These projects are funded from preferential loans provided by the Chinese side. The

¹ 13 bilateral agreements were signed, as well as 2 agreements within the China-CEEC mechanism.

second stage of the Kostolac Thermal Power Plant project, implying the construction of a new thermal power plant (USD 715.6 million) and construction of a new fast railway from Belgrade to Budapest, and a number of other projects are ongoing. Some of these projects are being implemented within the special mechanism of cooperation between China and sixteen countries of Central and Eastern Europe (China-CEEC), to which Serbia attaches special importance. China has continued to extend technical aid grants to Serbia and the two sides strengthen cooperation in other areas as well, particularly in areas of culture, education (learning of the Chinese language at elementary schools and high schools), science, technology and sports.

JAPAN

Japan is one of Serbia's major partners in Asia, primarily when it comes to economy. Political relations are on the rise. Japan supports Serbia's European integration and sees Serbia as a key country in the Western Balkan region. Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Senior Vice Minister from the State for Disaster Management Cabinet Office, visited Serbia in July in order to become thoroughly familiar with the situation in the regions hit by disastrous floods. The delegation of the Japanese business federation Keidanren visited Serbia between 23 and 25 September, and had meetings with Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic, Minister of Economy Zeljko Sertic and Minister Jadranka Joksimovic, while the Business Forum was held at the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Political consultations at Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs/ Deputy Director General level were held in Belgrade, 30 October.

Agreements on donations by Japanese SMEs and of latest-generation hybrid and diesel fuel vehicles were signed. An Agreement on the Donation of the Japanese Government in the form of Japanese industrial products was signed late in 2014, its worth was USD 831 000. Serbia was granted a yen loan for the project "TENT Desulphurization" ¥ 28.2 billion worth (around EUR 260 million). A feasibility study was conducted for the second yen loan (Resolving the problem of waste water in Belgrade, around EUR 200 million worth). Serbia submitted a request to the Japanese side early in October for the grant of a preferential loan amounting to EUR 65 million, for the purpose of rehabilitation of the energy and mining sectors in the wake of the floods.

In the period between January and September 2014, imports from Japan amounted to EUR 60.7 million, while exports amounted to EUR 3.9 million.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Serbia is strengthening its cooperation with the Republic of Korea, particularly in the economic area. Around 5,500 people are employed in plants and representative offices of Korean

companies in Serbia. In 2014, the two countries marked the 25th anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations. In the period between January and September 2014, trade in goods amounted to USD 90.9 million, out of which Serbian exports amounted to USD 1.5 million.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic met Minister of Foreign Affairs Ri Su Yong on the margins of the 69th session of the UNGA in New York, where it was reiterated that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea supported Serbia's positions concerning Kosovo and Metohija. In the period between January and September 2014, trade in goods amounted to USD 1.23 million, with no exports on the Serbian side.

REPUBLIC OF INDIA

The relations between Serbia and India have been characterized by traditional friendship based on the NAM, along with continuity of very good political relations. Interest has been expressed in the enhancement and intensification of the political dialogue and the development of the political dialogue as well as the development of overall, and economic cooperation in particular.

The Delegation of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, headed by the then Chairman Zeljko Sertic, visited India between 24 and 30 January, in the context of promoting Serbia as an investment destination. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was signed on the occasion. Indian entrepreneurs stressed their interest in infrastructure, pharmaceutical and automobile industry investments, RTB Bor, Sartid, irrigation systems and the ICT sector.

The Second Session of the Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation was held on 19 September via teleconference. Mutual interest was also expressed in holding the session of the Joint Committee for Agriculture at the earliest possible date.

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

Minister Dacic met Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka G. L. Peiris on the margins of the Bled Forum, early in September 2014.

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

The Republic of Indonesia is one of Serbia's most significant partners in the region of South-East Asia. Traditionally friendly relations constitute the basis for the constant advancement of both political relations and cooperation in the areas of trade, armed forces, culture, sports, education and religious affairs. The year 2014 also witnessed the 60th anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations with Indonesia. A delegation from the National Archives of Indonesia visited the Archives of Yugoslavia between 18 and 22 September, and attended the ceremony of promoting the collection of documents titled *Yugoslavia-Indonesia 1945-1967*. Directors of the two Archives agreed on the occasion and signed the Plan of Activities for the 2013-2016 period, in line with the Memorandum of Cooperation, signed in Jakarta, in 2013. Harmonization of the text of the Memorandum of Understanding in area of education is underway, while the draft text of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in youth and sports was finalized in March 2014. The ten-year Agreement on the abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic and service passports expired on 27 July 2014, but the two parties agreed to implement a relaxed visa regime pending the conclusion of a new one (ready for signature). Company "Indofood" invested around USD 20 million in the Republic of Serbia. Indonesia was the partner country of the Tourist Trade Fair in 2014.

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

Minister for Electrical Power U Khin Maung Soe visited Serbia between 28 and 30 November 2014 with the aim of familiarizing himself with Serbian electric power capacities. The procedure for the conclusion of cooperation agreement in other areas is underway.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic talked to President of the Philippines Benigno Aquino on the margins of the 69th session of the UNGA, in New York, September 2014.

During the UNGA session, Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic met Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Kasiviswanathan Shanmugam.

We expect that the contacts established with the top Lao officials on the occasion of the presentation of Letters of Credence by Ambassador Miodrag Nikolin will add a significant impetus to the enhancement of cooperation in all areas of common interest.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Political dialogue and cooperation with Australia and New Zealand have been enhanced. Negotiations for the conclusion of a Social Security Agreement between Serbia and Australia are ongoing. The Agreement on Air Transport between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Australia came into force on 21 May 2014, and airlines operating scheduled air services between Belgrade and Sydney, Belgrade and Melbourne and Belgrade and Brisbane have been designated. Australian Environment Minister Greg Hunt visited Serbia on 16 September.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand Murray McCully visited Serbia between 23 and 24 June. Mutual readiness for the advancement of cooperation in all areas of common interest (political contacts, UN, economy, visa regime, contractual state, etc.) was expressed in the talks. The procedure for entering into an Agreement on Air Transport was launched.

5. NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

During 2014, the positive dynamic was maintained in the bilateral relations with the United States of America, and it primarily consisted of intensified political dialogue between the officials from the two countries. The United States continued to openly support Serbia's European integration, emphasizing its constructive role reflected in Serbia's preparedness for the continuation of negotiations in Brussels. They commended the implementation process of economic and rule of law reforms in Serbia.



MFA Ivica Dacic and U. S. Assistant Secretary of State V. Nuland

Relevant meetings of Serbian officials with representatives of **the U.S. Administration** were held: Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland visited Belgrade on 13 July within her regional tour, and **on this occasion** met with President Tomislav Nikolic, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic. A brief meeting between President Tomislav Nikolic and President Barack Obama took place on the margins of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly. In September, Minister Dacic met with Deputy Assistant Secretary Hoyt Yee on the margins of the Bled Strategic Forum and during the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly. Minister Dacic met Secretary of State John Kerry on the margins of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel in December.

Representatives of the U.S. Administration and Congress offered support to Serbia during its preparations for the OSCE Chairmanship, and Secretary of State John Kerry announced that he was considering participation in the OSCE Ministerial Meeting in Belgrade in December 2015. Of common multilateral activities, the U.S. side praised Serbia for joining the Global Coalition against ISIS.

The trade in goods with the U.S. in 2014 amounted to USD 591.8 million, with a slight surplus on the Serbian side, and according to the Serbian Statistical Office, exports amounted to USD 312 million, whereas imports amounted to USD 279 million.

As for the **contractual activities**, the negotiations over the Open Sky Agreement have been resumed.

In the area of parliamentary cooperation, eight Congressmen visited Belgrade in December, along with Senator Christopher Murphy. The Serbian Caucus remains engaged in U.S. Congress, whereas in May last year a new U.S. Parliamentary Friendship Group was formed in the Serbian National Assembly, with 80 members.

In the field of defence cooperation, former Minister of Defence Nebojsa Rodic visited former Secretary of Defence C. Hagel in January.

The continuity of police cooperation has been maintained, with focus remaining on the sharing of experience and information, especially in combating organised crime, corruption and terrorism. The efforts to negotiate an Extradition Agreement have continued, while the Agreement on Cooperation in Drug Control and Law Enforcement was signed on 29 September.

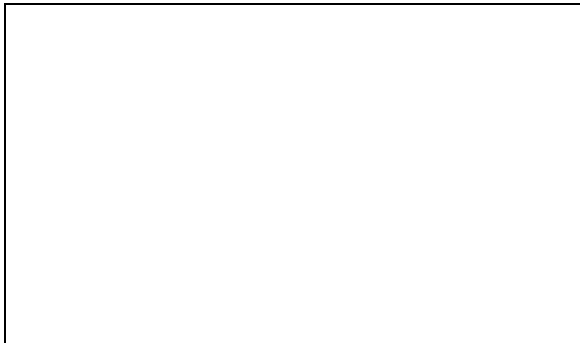
CANADA

The bilateral relations with Canada, along with significant high-level meetings, are characterised by the rising trend of economic cooperation. In 2014, the political dialogue with Canada was

intensified, since the former Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird visited Serbia in the period from 29 August to 1 September, during which he met with President Tomislav Nikolic, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic, as well as with Minister of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications Rasim Ljajic. It was the first Ministerial-level visit after 13 years (the former Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs John Manley visited Belgrade in 2001). Minister Dacic met with the former Foreign Minister John Baird on the margins of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel in December.

During his visit to the Republic of Serbia, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird expressed his support for Serbia's European integration process, and emphasised that opening Serbia's EU accession negotiations was an incentive for the further improvement of relations between the two countries. In addition, he commended the progress made in the normalisation of relations with Pristina. During the visit, the Agreement on Mutual Investment Promotion and Protection was signed, and later ratified in the Canadian Parliament.

A Parliamentary Friendship Group with the Republic of Serbia was formed in the Canadian Parliament in March, which includes 13 members. In July, a Parliamentary Friendship Group with Canada was established in the Serbian National Assembly, and it currently consists of 24 members.



Minister Ivica Dacic and Canadian Foreign Minister J. Baird

Economic cooperation represents the field of bilateral relations with the most dynamic development, especially in terms of the flow of Canadian investments in the Republic of Serbia, primarily in the fields of mining and energy. According to the Serbian Statistical Office, trade in goods amounted to USD 45.7 million: exports amounted to USD 18.2 million, whereas imports amounted to USD 27.5 million.

THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES, ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL, REPUBLIC OF CHILE, REPUBLIC OF CUBA, THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

It is necessary to provide room for the re-establishment of political and economic presences of the Republic of Serbia in South and Central America, which is a region of rising economic power and international influence. It is beyond any doubt that Serbia should strengthen the political dialogue with these countries in the context of exploring opportunities for strengthening cooperation and preserving their principled support on the issue of Kosovo and Metohija's unilateral declaration of independence.

The Republic of Serbia attaches great importance to improving relations with Mexico, including the strengthening of economic relations and attracting Mexican investments. A. Negrini, Director General for Europe for the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Goran Petrovic, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Bilateral Relations, led the political consultations on 5 September in Belgrade.

The Republic of Serbia seeks to intensify its bilateral relations with the Argentine Republic. With a view to strengthening political dialogue, Minister I. Dacic visited Argentina from 25 to 26 November and Chile from 27 to 28 November.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic met with Cuba's Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Rodríguez at the UN General Assembly Session in September.

The draft text of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua was agreed, in the interest of establishing a political consultation mechanism, and its signing is planned for the occasion of presentation of letters of credence by Ambassador Goran Mesic in Managua.

6. AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

The Republic of Serbia and Africa have a long tradition of good relations and our country is firm in its decision to further strengthen all forms of the decades-long cooperation, which continues to develop on the sound basis of mutual respect. Serbia also wishes to foster and enhance its traditional ties with the Arab world countries, especially in order to further advance the economic cooperation with them.

The Republic of Serbia contributes to the best of its capabilities to the UN-mandated multinational peace operations, and it has joined the Coalition against the Islamic State (ISIS), adopting the legislation that sanctions the involvement of its citizens on foreign battlefronts and as a way of more effective implementation of this orientation of the country.

Serbia took part in the Gaza Donor Conference, held on October 12 in Cairo, and it pledged 50,000 dollars for these purposes.

On October 29, Minister Dacic held a special briefing for African and Arab Ambassadors from the Diplomatic Corps in Belgrade, to strengthen Serbia's position in Arab countries, as well as to advance and intensify bilateral relations with its African partners.

SUMMIT OF THE AFRICAN UNION

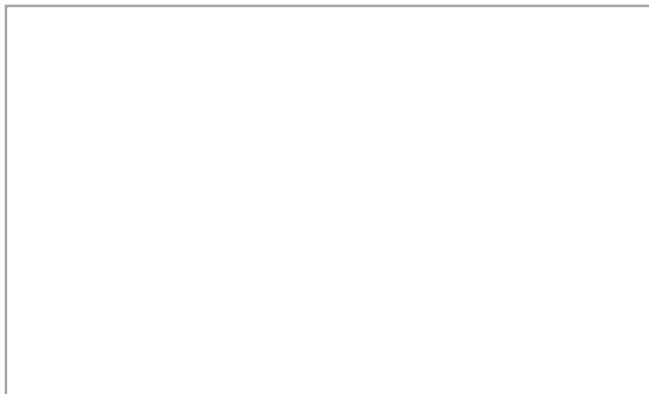
The Republic of Serbia is committed to improving its relations with the African countries, and to enhancing the cooperation with them through the activities of the African Union. Minister Ivan Mrkic attended the African Union (AU) Summit, held from January 28 to January 31 in Addis Ababa, which was Serbia's tenth participation in a row. His visit was aimed at constructively exchanging views on all matters of common interest.

MFA Ivan Mrkic at the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa

General topics of Serbian-African relations were discussed during the talks between the Minister and the officials of the AU, and, in that context, they exchanged views on the advancement of the political dialogue, foreign activities and the Republic of Serbia's priorities, continuation of support to Serbia's policy on Kosovo and Metohija, European integration process, possibilities of enhancing political and economic cooperation, Serbia's assistance in the post-conflict rehabilitation of certain African countries, participation of Serbia's armed forces in UN- and EU-led Peacekeeping Operations in some crisis African areas, military-economic cooperation, cooperation in the fields of agriculture, education, culture, etc. It was estimated that the Serbian-African relations were very good, and that there were significant possibilities for cooperation in all fields of common interest, primarily in the areas of agriculture, pharmaceuticals, civil engineering, education and defence. They specifically emphasised the possibility of Serbia's involvement in AU programmes for post-conflict rehabilitation of certain African countries. In the talks with the Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission, Erastus Mwencha, Foreign Minister Ivan Mrkic confirmed the continuation of the Republic of Serbia's regular participation in the AU Summits, as observer, and took the occasion to present the Draft Economic Cooperation Agreement between Serbia and the AU, which had been previously agreed. It was pointed out that the signing of this Agreement would contribute to enhancing the relations with the African countries in the fields stated in the Agreement.

THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

President of the Republic of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic, at the invitation from the Tunisian President, went on a working and friendly visit to Tunisia, from 5 to 6 March, with the aim of further renewal and advancement of overall bilateral relations. Minister Ivan Mrkic and Minister of Culture, Ivan Tasovac, were on the delegation. The visit was realised as a part of the commemoration of 100 years since the start of World War I. Apart from the President of Tunisia, Moncef Marzouki, the delegation also met with the President of the Constituent Assembly, Mustapha Ben Jafar, and the Tunisian Prime Minister, M. Jomaa. During the visit, in addition to meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mongi Hamdi, Minister Ivan Mrkic signed the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement and the Agreement on road transport and transit of people and goods, while Minister of Culture Ivan Tasovac signed the Cooperation Programme in the Fields of Science, Culture and Sport for 2014 – 2016.



MFA I. Mrkic visiting Tunisia for the commemoration of 100 years since the beginning of WWI

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

President of the Republic of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic had a working visit to the United Arab Emirates, November 22 – 26, at the invitation from the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed. On this occasion, the President met, along with the host, with the Minister of Youth and Sports, Sheikh Nahyan Al Nahyan, as well as with the representatives of Serbian and the Emirate's companies from Abu Dhabi.

In the course of 2014, the Embassy of UAE started operating in Belgrade (the Ambassador of UAE in Serbia, Juma Rashid Al Dhaheri, presented his Letter of Credence on April 10).

STATE OF QATAR, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

In 2014, Serbia opened its diplomatic-consular missions in Doha, State of Qatar (in March on the level of Chargé d'Affaires, but the Embassy has not been fully staffed yet), and in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (November 10 on the level of Chargé d'Affaires, but the Embassy has not yet been fully staffed, either).

STATE OF ISRAEL

In order to preserve the existing and strengthen future positions of the Republic of Serbia, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic paid an official visit to Israel, in the period from November 30 to December 2, 2014.

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

Affirmation of positions and of foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Serbia is also largely realized through the United Nations, the most important international organization as far as the Republic of Serbia is concerned, not only when it comes to the protection of its territorial integrity and sovereignty, but also when it comes to the protection of its interests in areas such as peace, security, the rule of law and sustainable development.

The most topical issues from the UN agenda, to which the Republic of Serbia has made its appropriate contribution, are the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, climate change, sustainable development, international peace and security, fight against international terrorism, disarmament and reform of the UN system.

In line with its foreign-policy priorities, the Republic of Serbia has opted to make, in a concrete and visible way, its contribution towards safeguarding global security and protecting human rights, in accordance with the UN Charter, by way of participating in UN peacekeeping missions. The Republic of Serbia is among leading contributor countries of Europe to UN peace missions (in 7th place). SAF and MoI personnel currently take part in eight UN-led peacekeeping operations: MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of the Congo), UNMIL (Liberia), UNOCI (Côte d'Ivoire), UNFICYP (Republic of Cyprus), UNIFIL (Lebanese Republic), UNTSO (Middle East), MINUSTAH (Haiti) and MINUSCA (Central African Republic). The First regional high-level conference on participation of the Western Balkan countries in UN peacekeeping operations was held in Belgrade, between 23 and 24 October 2014, a kind of acknowledgement

of Serbia as the regional leader, and appreciation for its contribution and participation in peacekeeping missions under the auspices of the United Nations.

1. ACTIVITIES

In the course of the past year, Serbia has actively participated in UN fora in New York responsible for the formulation of the Global Development Agenda for the 2015-2030 period. Serbia was an active member of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. Drafting of the Global Development Agenda, to be adopted by the Summit in September 2015, represents one of the most important strategic tasks facing the UN, and will lay foundations of sustainable development in the first half of the 21st century. This is an ambitious project, enjoying the support of the broadest international community, and primary aiming to eradicate poverty and hunger in the world by 2030, and to secure sustainable development.

As a member of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) in 2014–2016, Serbia has already made its active contribution to global discussions on sustainable development in all aspects. Serbia was elected in 2014 to the ECOSOC (functional) Commission on Population and Development. Work is ahead of us to develop a new National Sustainable Development Strategy that would put the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda in the context of the country's European integration, as many SDGs overlap with Serbia's commitments under the EU negotiating chapters.

In this regard, it is important to note the United Nations Development Action Framework of assistance and partnership (UNDAF) concluded with the Republic of Serbia for the 2016-2020 period. UNDAF is a strategic document which sets the ground for the assistance and support offered by the UN system and its agencies to the overall economic and social development of Serbia in the next 5 years. The new UNDAF will be reflect the assessed level of implementation of the previous UNDAF and the economic and social situation in the country as described by the UN agencies and the Government of Serbia and included in the document "Common Country Assessment".

The Republic of Serbia believes that the reform and revitalisation of the overall UN system implies overarching functional, structural and institutional changes. UNSC reform is causally linked to the GA revitalisation process, where it is necessary to enhance work coordination and expand communication channels. The issue is closely watched by us, with full support of the reform and revitalisation of the entire UN system. As to the reform of the UNSC, Serbia would like that consideration be given to the possibility of another place for the East European group in the negotiations on reforming the Security Council, having in mind the rising number of states created in this region after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Serbia's actions in the United Nations bodies dealing with the issue of Kosovo and Metohija are the function of affirming Serbia's position in the defence of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, within a status-neutral framework based on UNSC Resolution 1244 (1999). The Republic of Serbia has endeavoured to keep focus on the issues of the position of the non-Albanian population in Kosovo and Metohija, the human rights situation in Kosovo and Metohija, and particularly the implementation of the proper international investigation into allegations contained in the report titled "Inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo*" by Mr. Dick Marty, Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly.

Regular quarterly sessions of the UN Security Council devoted to the work of UNMIK presented an opportunity to reaffirm the positions of the Republic of Serbia on the settlement of the issue of Kosovo and Metohija, with emphasis on the importance of the essential role of the UN and UNMIK's support to the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, with the aim of reaching compromise in the form of a balanced, sustainable and mutually acceptable solution. Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dacic took part in regular Council sessions dedicated to the work of UNMIK. Serbian representatives pointed out in their statements that it was necessary to sustain the level of UNMIK's presence, which implies that there be no budgetary cuts in the funds allocated for this peace mission.

Preventive actions were also taken to stave off the membership of Kosovo and Metohija, which unilaterally declared its independence, in international organizations and prevent its recognition. Diplomatic actions were taken to prevent participation of representatives of the unilaterally declared Kosovo and Metohija in international events that might not be without prejudice to their status. Special attention was directed to the provision of conditions for the functioning of a larger number of regional initiatives and multilateral agreements along the lines of the respect of international law and protection of the national interest of the Republic of Serbia.

With the aim of promoting its foreign policy and its interests, the Republic of Serbia actively participated in discussions that took place in the course of 2014 under the auspices of the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council, and had to do with issues of peace and security, disarmament, the fight against terrorism, sustainable development, human rights, work of the ICTY and its Residual Mechanism, etc.

A delegation of the Republic of Serbia, headed by President Tomislav Nikolic, took part in September in the 69th session of the General Assembly in New York, which offered an opportunity to have numerous bilateral meetings, where the issue of Kosovo and Metohija, Serbia's prospects in the European integration process, strengthening the cooperation in the

region of South-East Europe, possibilities for the enhancement of bilateral cooperation on the political and economic levels, and attracting foreign investments and sustainable development featured as major topics. President Tomislav Nikolic and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic took part in numerous side-events that served as a platform for the affirmation of our national and foreign policy priorities. President Tomislav Nikolic took part in one of the most important meetings held on the margins of the 69th UNGA - the Climate Summit, where he underlined the importance of responsibility of the most developed countries and pointed to the need of as urgent harmonization of the plan as possible, to take the responsibility for the future of our planet and the generations to come.

Minister Ivica Dacic delivered a statement in the open session of the UNSC on terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters, and in the regional Western Balkans meeting on foreign terrorist fighters. The Minister also participated and delivered a statement at the UNGA Special Session on the International Conference on population and development, and the Summit on Peacekeeping Missions.

The engagement and work within UNESCO are of exceptional importance for Serbia. As part of the efforts invested towards preserving and promoting, at the international level, the wealth and diversity of the culture and tradition of the Serbian people, “Slava, celebration of family patron saint's day”, was inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, as the first intangible entry from Serbia.

The Agreement between Serbia and UNESCO on the establishment of the “Centre on Water for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climatic Change” within the Jaroslav Cerni Institute for Water Development was given full legitimacy after its ratification in the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. The Centre joins the group of 28 UNESCO Category 2 water-related centres around the world, and its establishment proves a high level of activity of the Jaroslav Cerni Institute in the water area.

After the catastrophic flooding that devastated great many significant cultural and educational institutions in the Republic of Serbia, UNESCO allocated as emergency assistance 50,000 US dollars for the rehabilitation of the Homeland Museum in Arandjelovac and the National Museum in Paracin, thus enabling these important institutions to restore their capacities and continue their work.

In order to support further scientific and professional advancement and encourage scientific development in Serbia, modelled on the “UNESCO L’Oreal Women’s Contribution Award” “L’Oreal Balkans”, in cooperation with the National Commission for UNESCO (operating within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and the Ministry of Education and Science, awards fellowships within the programme “For Women in Science”. Three young Serbian scientists

were awarded national fellowships in 2014 for their outstanding scientific research performance in the areas of astrophysics, biotechnology and biochemistry. Since the launching of the programme, 15 young women have been awarded this fellowship.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS

Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued their active participation in the work of bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations and other international organizations in the human rights area. Particular attention was devoted to the work of the UN Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, and of the UN General Assembly Third Committee responsible for human rights issues.

Ambassador Roksanda Nincic, as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Multilateral Cooperation, participated in the High Level Segment of the Human Rights Council, in March 2014. Ambassador Nincic drew attention to the global challenges in the human rights area, Serbia's efforts aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights on the national level, and the difficult human rights situation in Kosovo and Metohija.

Given the position that promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principles of cooperation and open dialogue, active participation continued on the Universal Periodic Review – a unique mechanism in the framework of the UN Human Rights Council, reviewing the human rights situation in all countries worldwide.

The past year was also characterized by continued active cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as on special human rights procedures. The UN Human Rights Council Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances visited Serbia, including Kosovo and Metohija, in June. During the visit, the Working Group representatives were informed of the current situation regarding missing persons, the efforts made by the Republic of Serbia in this area, open issues related to tracing and identification of missing persons in the region, and the problem of involuntary disappearance in the context of the report of Dick Marty, Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Rapporteur on trade in human organs. In line with its contractual obligations, the Republic of Serbia submits to relevant UN committees periodic reports on the implementation of conventions that have been ratified. In 2014, the Republic of Serbia presented its periodic report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

3. HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

Given the large number of persons displaced over a long period of time (refugees from the region, i.e. from Croatia and BiH, as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Kosovo

and Metohija), international activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were aimed at improving the position and providing full protection of the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons.

REFUGEES

Serbia regularly participates in the meetings of the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as its member since 2002. First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic participated in the 65th session of the UNHCR Executive Committee, in Geneva, on 30 September, and underlined the adverse effects of publicizing the recommendation on status cessation for refugees from Croatia, informed of the status of IDPs in the Republic of Serbia, implementation of the Regional Housing Programme and the significant rise in the number of asylum-seekers.

The implementation of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP) for refugees, which started in 2014, is a part of a broader process of regional cooperation in finding durable solutions to the problems facing refugees (restoration of occupant's rights and reconstruction of property, convalidation of years of work and the unpaid pensions, resident status and citizenship for returnees, restitution of agricultural holdings to their lawful proprietors, participation in the privatisation process, issues of missing persons and the security situation concerning refugees).

Minister Ivica Dacic, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Commission for Coordination of the Permanent Integration Process of refugees and Chair of the RHP Steering Committee, took part in a media event on 2 October 2014, marking the launch of the RHP implementation in Serbia. A visit to the beneficiary family in the village of Krnjesevci near Stara Pazova that had been allocated construction material was organised on the occasion, and contracts were signed with representatives of nine municipalities and cities where 200 flats are to be built in the framework of the RHP second wave.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs made additional efforts on the international level to the effect of improving the position of internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija in the Republic of Serbia, which is on top of the list of European countries according to the number of IDPs in protracted displacement. In this context, the process of consultation with representatives of the relevant international organizations, the EU and the US has been initiated.

Additional efforts were made to ensure consistent compliance with UN Security Council resolution 1244, which explicitly states as one of the main tasks of the international presence in

Kosovo and Metohija “to ensure the free and unimpeded return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes in Kosovo”, under the UNHCR supervision.

Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued the ongoing commitment on the international level to create conditions for durable solutions, including freedom of internally displaced persons to decide to return or integrate in places of displacement, as well as full respect for the human rights of these persons.

MISSING PERSONS

Taking as a point of departure the fact that the right to the truth is one of the fundamental human rights, and that the process of genuine reconciliation in the region depends on the possibility of exercising the rights of families to know the truth about the fate of their loved ones, the activities aimed at resolving the issue have been intensified, including through cooperation at the regional level.

Four countries in the region (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Croatia) signed the Declaration on the role of the state in settling the issue of persons missing as a consequence of armed conflict and human rights abuses, on 29 August 2014, in Mostar,

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

As one of the four member states of the Regional Steering Group of European and other countries, in 2014 the Republic of Serbia actively participated in the preparation of the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul in 2016.

In the context of the Istanbul Summit, intensive preparations were made for the Regional Meeting of the European and other groups, in Budapest (February 2015).

THE ENVIRONMENT

In preparing for the upcoming 21st Conference of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015, in Paris, significant because the adoption of a new international legally-binding agreement on climate change is planned, Serbia participated in the 20th Conference of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December in Lima (Peru).

The Republic of Serbia was active in the promotion of cooperation of the Danubian countries as evidenced by the choice of Ambassador Rade Drobac as President of the Danube Commission for the period of three years.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Republic of Serbia continued its active engagement in the Council of Europe. The delegation of the Republic of Serbia to the regular annual 124th CE Ministerial Meeting in Vienna, on 6 May, was headed by Minister Dacic. In addition to addressing the participants of the meeting, Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic had bilateral meetings with CE SG Thorbjorn Jagland and the Foreign Ministers of many member countries.

In 2014 too, Serbia actively resisted efforts by Pristina and Kosovo-orientated CE Member States to integrate the UDI Kosovo and Metohija into CE. The Kosovo Medicines Agency has twice submitted a request for observer status with the European Pharmacopoeia. The first request was rejected because of the opposition of our representative, given that the procedure provides for the approval of such requests only by unanimity of all Pharmacopoeia Member States, while a decision on the second request should be made during 2015.

In the context of the Ukrainian crisis, which has in many ways marked the work of the Council in 2014, Serbia advocated the search for compromise solutions, refusing to take anyone side.

As part of the regular monitoring procedure of the CE Committee of Ministers and preparation of the report for the period November 2011 - November 2014, the CE Secretariat delegation visited Serbia for the purpose of “regular monitoring of the cooperation and progress in meeting statutory obligations and dialogue-based democratic processes”.

In October, the Third Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia was discussed. The consideration of the CM Draft Resolution made under the Third Opinion is underway.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the Resolution on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Kosovo and Metohija, on 26 November 2014. The final text of the Resolution included the amendments of our delegation.

In cooperation with the Court, a significant progress was also achieved in reducing repetitive cases by adopting the so-called pilot judgment in some typical cases.

In 2014, there were, as usual, two sessions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (in March and October). At the March session of the CLRAE, the decision was adopted to confirm the mandates of the new delegation from Serbia. After an almost two-year pause, our delegation participated in both sessions of the Congress in 2014.

Among the activities of the Development Bank of CE in 2014, provision of funding from the Development Bank to overcome the consequences of floods which affected Serbia in May 2014 was particularly important to the country. This issue was given special attention at the meeting of the Board of the Bank in June when our request to re-allocate the previously approved funds and channel them into the construction of social housing (amounting to EUR 32.5 million) and to disburse them for urgent flood prevention and rehabilitation projects, was considered and accepted.

In order to support and help Serbia regarding the floods, collection of aid in the form of goods and cash was organized within the CE on a voluntary basis and all the proceeds of the organized humanitarian concert was intended for flood victims in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bulgaria. Part of these funds was handed over to the Mission and sent to the country.

On 10 January 2014, Serbia ratified the Fourth Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition. Minister of Youth and Sport Vanja Udovicic signed the European Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (18/9/2014).

At the invitation of Director of the CE Directorate General for Democracy, Minister of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia Ivan Tasovac visited the Council of Europe in late March and had a series of meetings, where they discussed issues of professional assistance by the Council of Europe and the realization of projects in the field of cultural policy, cultural heritage and the digitalisation process in culture.

SECURITY POLICY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued in 2014 to contribute actively to the creation and strengthening of national, regional and global security by intensifying bilateral and multilateral cooperation in this area, within the United Nations, European Union, NATO, OSCE, and other international organisations. The Ministry was especially engaged in maintaining the territorial

integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Serbia and in implementing the Brussels Agreement on the normalisation process between Belgrade and Pristina. In that context, the Ministry worked diligently to preserve the existing scope of the international presence in Kosovo and Metohija (UNMIK, EULEX, KFOR) as an important factor of keeping the peace and of stability in the Province, as well as of ensuring secure conditions for the continuation of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue.

The creation of a secure environment and its preservation is necessary in order to realise Serbia's international goals, and the democratic processes and the European international orientation of Serbia are serving to improve the policy of cooperation and build confidence and trust in the region, as well as to reinforce its international position. On this basis, the foreign policy of the Government of the Republic of Serbia continued to be implemented, so that Serbia could remain a significant factor of regional security cooperation and a reliable partner in international relations. Through different activities, contribution has been made to the State policy of addressing all issues, including the ones regarding the status of Kosovo, solely by political means and through dialogue, in accordance with the UN Charter, international law and European standards, all aimed at establishing long-term stability.

The most significant activities of Serbia in the area of security policy are directed at the cooperation with the European Union on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), but also those within the Partnership for Peace Programme (PfP), and at the cooperation with the UN, OSCE, international fora and initiatives in the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms export control.

Apart from this, bilaterally, activities have continued by holding political consultations in the domain of security policy, during which priority topics were discussed. In this regard, consultations were conducted with Turkey, Belgium, Russia, the United Kingdom, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SERBIA-EU COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Agreements with the EU on establishing a framework for the Republic of Serbia's participation in EU crisis management operations and security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information, which became effective on August 1, 2012, constitute the legal basis for Serbia's participation in the Common Security and Defence Policy.

During 2014, personnel of the Serbian Armed Forces took part in four EU operations: EUTM Somalia (staff officers and medical team), EUNAVFOR – ATALANTA SOMALIA (staff officers, NCOs and the Autonomous Team for Protection of Ships), EUFOR RCA in the Central

African Republic (medical team) and EUTM Mali (medical team belonging to the German contingent -light field hospital of the II level).

During the operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, the first Autonomous Team of the Serbian Armed Forces for Protection of Ships (ATPS) was engaged in the period from December 2013 to March 2014, and the second Autonomous Team from September to December 2014. ATPS consists of 12 members of the Serbian Armed Forces, whose assignment is to protect the UN World Food Programme's commercial ship from pirate attacks. A third ATPS is expected to be contributed to this operation during 2015.

The Republic of Serbia expressed its willingness to participate in the EU civilian mission in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali), with the aim of supporting internal security forces in Mali. In 2014, the Republic of Serbia accepted all calls from the EU to participate in EU missions and operations.

The Republic of Serbia is committed to the cooperation with the EU Member States in the context of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), while respecting the interests of both sides. Serbia increases its contribution to CSDP and it strives towards improving the cooperation with the EU by becoming integrated in this area of European policy, to the extent of its capabilities.

Participation in EU missions and operations reflects the political will and readiness of the state to undertake the most complex tasks in dealing with today's security challenges, and the invitations for Serbia to join the EU battle groups and its previous contribution to EU operations demonstrate appreciation for Serbia's contributions and respect of the capabilities of its armed forces. Serbia is among the countries that actively support peace-making/peacekeeping and stabilisation efforts around the world, and, at the same time, it contributes to the creation of a partner relationship with EU Member States. The Republic of Serbia's presence in EU missions and operations is not only a step that will bring Serbia closer to the EU, but it is also a sign of mutual trust and willingness to share responsibilities in facing security challenges.

With seven UN-led missions and operations in 2014, between 214 and 329 Serbian military personnel were regularly deployed to multinational missions and operations, and of that number 17 to 29 were deployed to EU operations. If rotations of Serbian contributing troops in EU and UN missions and operations were included, then around 600 Serbian military personnel were deployed altogether.

In 2014, the cooperation with the European Defence Agency (EDA) was continued under the Administrative Arrangement between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia and the European Defence Agency, signed in Brussels in December 2013. This Agreement enables our

country to participate in EDA programmes and projects and opens up the possibility of stimulating domestic defence industry and the research potential of Serbian institutes.

Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs engaged in 2014 in the Explanatory (July) and Bilateral screening meetings (October) on Chapter 31 – Foreign, Security and Defence Policy. During those screening meetings, the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also chaired the Negotiating Group on Chapter 31 (Ambassador Miomir Udovicki, Assistant Foreign Minister in charge of Security Policy at the Explanatory and Mr Branimir Filipovic, MA, Head of the Department for CSDP and Security Challenges, as Acting Chairman of the Group at the Bilateral Screening Meeting).

SERBIA-NATO COOPERATION WITHIN THE PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE PROGRAMME

Serbia's National Assembly Resolution of December 2007 defined military neutrality of the Republic of Serbia. The scope for further enhancement of the cooperation between Serbia and NATO within available mechanisms exists in the framework of the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Programme. Serbia recognises the importance of the role played by NATO in the regional security system, especially in the security of the Serbian community in Kosovo and Metohija. Specifically, KFOR is the guarantor of the implementation of the Brussels Agreement from the security aspect of the Serbian community in the northern part of the Province.

Serbia wishes to be a reliable, responsible and predictable partner with a view to making a joint contribution to maintaining peace and stability in the region, as evidenced by our active involvement in the PfP programme.

In 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs worked on agreeing the Serbia-NATO Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP), which is the most intensive form of collaboration within the PfP that does not imply NATO membership. The Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted IPAP on December 20, 2014, only to be approved by the North Atlantic Council (NAC) on January 15 2015. Adopting IPAP is a significant contribution to the further advancement of Serbia-NATO cooperation.

The PfP Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA PfP) was signed in January 2014. The Agreement is important for the Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces on account of joining the Operational Capabilities Concept for NATO-led PfP Operations (OCC) and PfP exercises. In addition, the Agreement largely facilitates the position and status of the SAF personnel engaged in multinational operations.

Minister Ivica Dacic participated in the Ministerial-level meeting of Partners of the Global Coalition against the Islamic State, at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, December 3, 2014. The meeting brought together representatives from 59 states, entities and international organisations which are in various ways included in the Global Coalition activities in all five lines of effort against ISIL. On this occasion, the Head of Serbian diplomacy, Ivica Dacic, presented the activities and contribution of Serbia in countering ISIL.

MFA representatives also took part in many international meetings and conferences (i.e. GLOBSEC in Bratislava, Belgrade Security Forum, meetings of the US-Adriatic Charter Partnership Commission).

On all these occasions, we reiterated our positions on the dominant topics from the area of foreign and security policy, primarily regarding Kosovo as our foremost security concern. At the same time, Serbia's position as a credible and reliable partner in contributing to regional, European and global security was promoted, on the basis of working together with the EU on the Common Security and Defence Policy and with NATO in the context of the Partnership for Peace.

Working and sharing experiences with NATO Members and PfP partners, Serbia secures the realisation of its key foreign and security policy goals, but also builds capacities to tackle more effectively new security threats and challenges (terrorism, proliferation of weapons for mass destruction, disarmament, organised crime, cybercrime, illicit trafficking in human beings and narcotic drugs, etc.).

ARMS CONTROL

During 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Sector for Arms Control) worked on the implementation of international agreements and the regime in place in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), disarmament, arms control and export control. It also carried out other activities related to security policy. In 2014, the following activities were especially significant:

1. The work on the implementation of the National Action Plan for Monitoring the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (NAP 1540) was continued. In this respect, in May 2014, the Security Council Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of Resolution 1540 received a reply from the Republic of Serbia concerning Matrix, which *de facto* represented a detailed report on measures that the Republic of Serbia had been taking to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles. At the same time, this reply contained a catalogue of measures regarding the progress achieved in improving the legal

regulations and taking of other measures since the submission of the reply to the first Matrix in 2002.

2. In December 2014, a new membership of the Working Group for the Monitoring of the Implementation of NAP 1540 was elected in accordance with the decision of the Government of Serbia. The Working Group reviews the implementation of NAP 1540 and establishes matters that need to be further improved by adopting new, specific measures to enhance our own capacities for a quality and timely control in the prevention of WMD and their delivery vehicles proliferation.

3. The Republic of Serbia presided over the IX Review Conference of the Parties to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Article IV, Annex 1-B to the Dayton Agreement), which was held in Vienna, July 17, 2014.

Acting as the Chair of the Conference, the Republic of Serbia prepared a Draft Final Document of the Conference, as well as other documents that were adopted. The Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control is an important stability factor in the Balkan region, as well as the OSCE region. The Agreement is a bridge for cooperation in Europe and it confirms, in the best possible way, what can be accomplished through successful implementation of an arms control agreement.

4. First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dacic, together with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the other Parties to the Agreement – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Croatia, signed on December 4, 2014, in Basel, Amendments to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Article IV, Annex 1-B to the Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina), successfully concluding the process of the transfer of ownership to the Parties to the Agreement. This process was initiated taking into consideration the results achieved by the Parties in the field of implementation of this Agreement, along with their ability to comply with the obligations arising from it in a substantive, timely and quality manner.

By successfully completing the transfer of ownership process, this Agreement became a model to be applied to other regions, especially in the post-conflict period, if the parties are willing to engage themselves in its implementation. In this context, there are some ideas to use it in the Middle East, North Africa, South-East Asia, etc.

5. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, at its session of October 29, 2014, passed the Law on the Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which allowed the Republic of Serbia to enter the group of countries which had ratified it before the Treaty took effect (December 24, 2014). The Treaty is the first international instrument that comprehensively regulates the area of arms trade. It defines the categories of arms covered by it, the prohibitions,

the criteria that each country has to take into account when making a decision to export arms, along with other issues related to arms transfers. The main purpose of this Arms Trade Treaty is to stop illegal arms sales from assuming alarming proportions worldwide.

6. Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively participated in the discussions at numerous international meetings, for a and seminars on non-proliferation, disarmament, arms control, export control, as well as regional conferences dealing with these issues. Ambassador Branka Latinovic, Head of the Sector for Arms Control, took part in the Third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Vienna, December 8 and 9, 2014. From the very beginning, the Republic of Serbia supported the Norwegian initiative (December 2013) to convene this Conference under the Action Plan adopted during the NPT Review Conference, May/June 2010, in New York.

The Conference in Vienna, preceded by two other conferences in Oslo and Nayarit (Mexico), was a great success, as proven by the number of participants (more than 155 representatives of states, along with a large number of non-governmental sector representatives). The special significance of this Conference was the first ever participation by two nuclear-weapon States – the United Kingdom and the United States. In addition, the Conference was, for the first time, also attended by representatives from Iran. The results of the Conference will be presented at the NPT Review Conference to be held in New York, from April 27 to May 22, 2015.

CONSULAR AFFAIRS

IN THE SERVICE OF CITIZENS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Sector for Consular Affairs and a network of diplomatic and consular missions (DCM) abroad, continued in 2014 to provide different consular services and to commit itself to the protection of interests of the Republic of Serbia, its legal entities and citizens. On a daily basis, the Sector for Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was at the citizens' disposal, when they asked for help in solving status issues, and especially in the cases of traffic and other accidents with serious consequences, arrests, theft of documents, giving support in cases of family problems, etc.

The Sector for Consular Affairs' work was especially prominent in emergencies, like aiding our workers and students in crisis situations, doing everything to help them, regarding their safety and possible repatriation. After the catastrophic floods that hit the Republic of Serbia in May 2014, the Sector for Consular Affairs engaged in organising the collection of humanitarian aid and donations from abroad, which were shipped to the country via the diplomatic and consular missions.

1. The best proof of the intensity and the constantly growing number of consular services is the number of 40,481 cases processed in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and 80,434 processed in the diplomatic and consular missions. Most of these cases were processed more than once.

One of the most ample consular tasks is definitely receiving of passport applications. In 2014, 18,312 applications for the issuance of biometric passports were received. Among the other consular work, a total number of 11,608 requests regarding citizenship were received (an increase of 1,664 compared to 2013), 5,835 certificates or authorizations were issued on different grounds and 4,194 letters of request were processed. The authentication of documents or signature, the so-called legalisation, was also an important segment of consular services provided. The Ministry authenticated 9,727 public papers, while Serbian diplomatic missions and consular posts handled 16,216 legalisation cases. In the case of child custody, DCMs worked on 112 cases, and 315 marriages were solemnised at the diplomatic or consular missions of the Republic of Serbia. During 2014, the Ministry issued 372 birth certificates and 53 citizenship certificates.

2. Serbian consulates assist citizens in highly complicated situations, like arrests or detentions, as well as in case of death. According to the DCM records, last year 1,641 citizens of Serbia were arrested abroad. Consular representatives made 303 visits to Serbian citizens in

foreign prisons. The Sector for Consular Affairs worked on 580 cases concerning the protection and exercise of the rights of Serbian citizens abroad.

One of the regular activities of the consular service is having Consular Days, that is, organising visits by representatives from Embassies, Consulates General or Consulates to the communities with a larger number of Serbian citizens to provide them consular services and thus save them time and expenses to travel to the nearest diplomatic mission or consular post. In 2014, 27 such Days were held, mostly in the countries of South Eastern Europe, as well as in some overseas countries where a large number of our citizens reside.

3. Pursuant to the basic principles on which the visa policy of the Republic of Serbia is based, during 2014, the work on further harmonisation of the Republic of Serbia's visa regime with that of the Schengen states had continued, and initiatives had been launched to waive visa requirements for holders of diplomatic or official passports with a number of countries.

Through the screening process within the EU accession negotiations, the institutional framework and practices on visa policy and visa regime were assessed, and main directions were set for further harmonisation of the relevant national legislation and practices and for drafting an Action Plan. MFA representatives actively worked with the Negotiating Group for Chapter 24 - Justice, Freedom, Security, and the representative of the Visa Policy Department was appointed Rapporteur for the Sub-Chapter: Development Policy and Humanitarian Aid.

4. The pursuance of the Republic of Serbia's visa policy and the successful implementation of its visa regime is aided by the creation of a Visa Information System in the MFA, which electronically connected the DCMs with the authorities in the country and enabled faster and more secure processing of visa applications.

In 2014, our DCM received 24,362 visa applications in total, an increase of 6 per cent compared to 2013. Most visas were granted in the diplomatic and consular missions of the Republic of Serbia in Libya, China, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia and Egypt.

The Sector for Consular Affairs follows the effects of the Serbian Government's decision (effective from November 8, 2014) to allow visa-free entry to holders of foreign passports with a valid Schengen visa, a UK visa, an EU visa or a US visa, as well as to bearers of foreign passports with a regularized status in the countries of the Schengen Area, EU Member States or the United States of America. According to this decision, around 800 people come to the Republic of Serbia for business or holidays, on a monthly basis.

As part of monitoring the visa-free travel regime for the citizens of the Republic of Serbia to the countries of the European Union, especially in the context of an increased number of unfounded

asylum seekers from our country in particular EU Member States, this phenomenon was followed closely and very attentively, and measures and actions were taken in cooperation with other authorities.

5. Special significance is attached to the development of consular cooperation within the region, and with neighbouring countries: therefore, consular consultations were held, at the level of Assistant Ministers, with Bosnia and Herzegovina and FYR Macedonia, in 2014. Last year, the Agreement on Mutual Diplomatic Representation with Montenegro became effective, and a similar Agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina has been applied since 2012.

In the view of improving work efficacy and enhancing quality in providing consular services, special focus was put on modernising the work process. The process of transferring the vital records, kept in the Ministry and DCMs, into an electronic form was initiated along with other modes of modernisation of the work process that should also upgrade the process of rendering consular services.

The network of career and honorary consulates of the Republic of Serbia has been constantly expanding, especially in those states where we need to improve our bilateral relations and ensure a more effective consular protection to our citizens and legal entities. At this moment, this network consists of 72 honorary consuls of the Republic of Serbia, on all continents.

COOPERATION WITH THE SERBIAN DIASPORA IN THE REGION AND THE WORLD

A significant segment of the MFA's Sector for Consular Affairs and DCM of the Republic of Serbia abroad were the tasks and activities directed at the strengthening of relations and cooperation with the Serbian diaspora.

High regard was given to the realisation of activities intended for the Serbian community in the region as part of a plan to preserve the national identity, the Serbian language, culture and customs through programmes of financing Serbian language courses. For this purpose, Serbian minority communities in the Republic of Albania and FYR Macedonia were provided with financial resources from the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

Supplementary school classes for the members of the Serbian minority abroad, supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, include studying the Serbian language, national history, geography and culture, and are being held in 5 European and 2 non-European countries (China and the Republic of South Africa).

The realisation of the project “Serbia for Serbs in the Region” has been continued, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, and it consists of awarding scholarships for studying at the universities of the Republic of Serbia. Within this project, the members of the Serbian minority community in the region were granted 29 scholarships for graduate, postgraduate and doctoral studies.

As part of the Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region, in 2014 a competition was announced for the Serbian communities in the countries of the region, with the aim of using, learning, preserving and fostering the Serbian language, and of preserving and fostering the cultural identity (155 projects in total, worth RSD 59,950,000.00). In December 2014, a public call was announced to co-finance the projects for the diaspora (98 projects in total, worth RSD 38,980,000.00), aimed at preserving the cultural identity, presenting artistic creative works of the diaspora in Serbia, preserving the Serbian language and writing, researching the needs and attitudes of the members of the diaspora and at organising education conducive to better bonds with the kin country. Particular attention was given to increasing the capacities of organisations and improving the economic cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and the diaspora.

Through the Ministry of Culture and Information, a call was announced for funding or co-funding projects in the area of cultural activity of Serbs abroad, aiming to boost and present the cultural creative potential of the members of the Serbian people abroad and to preserve their cultural identity.

In the year of commemorating the hundredth anniversary of World War I, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a Centennial Yearbook “Serbia Remembers”, working together with the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts, the Military Academy and the Red Cross organisation of Kragujevac.

THE DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY

EMPLOYEES’ PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The Ministry pays great attention to training and improving the skills of interns, diplomats and employees with the goal of professionalising the diplomatic force, and performs these important duties through the regular activities of its Diplomatic Academy. Accordingly, numerous training programmes were systematically organised: the Basic Diplomatic-Consular Training

Programme, specialised seminars on relevant topics regarding international relations and foreign policy, a special cycle of seminars on the EU and the Republic of Serbia in accession negotiations held in cooperation with the Serbian European Integration Office, advanced training and development of young diplomats in the country and abroad, professional exams and foreign language courses.

In 2014, forty-six trainees completed the Basic Diplomatic-Consular Training Programme. Employees from other state authorities working in the field of international cooperation participated in the programme of diplomatic training, pursuant to legally defined praxis, with the aim of more efficient inter-agency cooperation and activity in this area.

The Ministry improves and develops bilateral cooperation on diplomatic training with partner institutions under signed cooperation agreements (25 agreements are in force), or through negotiations for signing such agreements. During 2014, the Ministry signed agreements with the Diplomatic Academies/Institutes of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Armenia, Montenegro, Iraq, and many bilateral meetings between the heads of diplomatic academies were held.

Fostering academic relations with educational and scientific institutions, the Diplomatic Academy hosts every year many academics and students from universities in the country and abroad, for whom meetings and lectures on the international priorities of the Republic of Serbia are duly organised. Thus, in 2014 Serbia was the host for the students from the American University in Brussels and Washington D.C., North Eastern University from Boston, Clamson University from South Carolina (USA), the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences from Brussels, the Diplomatic Academy Vienna, the Faculty of Political Science, Law School and School of Economics from Belgrade, etc.

Within the professional training, the Ministry additionally organised and supported internships in DCMs and state organisational units in the country. The internship is primarily intended for undergraduate students and postgraduates. One hundred and fifty-three candidates completed the internship.

In addition, as part of bilateral cooperation, Serbian diplomats have an opportunity to complete their internships in the MFAs of foreign countries. In the previous period, Serbian representatives visited the Polish MFA, with emphasis on mastering skills and acquiring knowledge in the field of European integration.

CULTURAL COOPERATION

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES OF THE MFA AND DCMs

- ❖ The exhibition *The Roads of the Roman Emperors – Viminacium* (in cooperation with the Archaeological Park Viminacium) was presented in: London (“The Serbian House”, February), Budapest (Tekelianum , March 27 – April 15), San Francisco (St. John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, May), Los Angeles (St. Sava’s Church, May), the Serbian Mission to the UN in New York (on the occasion of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly, opened by the President of the Republic of Serbia, Tomislav Nikolic, September 25), and the Vittoriano museum complex in Rome (from December 4 to December 17, as part of the project “Rome towards Expo Milano 2015”, which presented the participating states of the Expo Milano).
- ❖ In the UN Palace in Geneva, an exhibition entitled “The Light of Peace” was organised by the Republic of Serbia’s Permanent Mission and the Association of Artists “Uros Predic” (made up of artists of Serbian descent living and working in Switzerland). Ms Maja Gojkovic, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, opened the exhibition, which showed over 130 artworks (paintings and sculptures) created by the members of the Association.
- ❖ The exhibition about Nikola Tesla in the exhibition area, organised by “The Telefonica Foundation” in Madrid, under the auspices of the Serbian Embassy in Spain and Nikola Tesla Museum in Belgrade (opened on November 12).
- ❖ The exhibition of the National Museum in Valjevo, *The Thessaloniki Front through the Lens of the War Painter and Photographer Dragoljub Pavlovic*, commemorating 100 years since the beginning of World War I, was presented in: the Serbian Embassy in Ljubljana (February 14) and in Piran (October 22).
- ❖ As part of events commemorating the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, the History Museum of Serbia showed the exhibition *Serbs in North Africa 1915-1919*, in the War Museum in Manouba, the Cultural Centre in Bizerte and the Moroccan Archive in Rabat.
- ❖ The guest performance “Banjska Gold” of the National Theatre in Pristina, presented in Dusseldorf on October 19, on the initiative of the Serbian cultural club “Serbika” from Gnjilane, within the project “Let’s Rebuild Banjska” (for the reconstruction of the Banjska monastery in Kosovo). It was made possible owing to cooperation between the MFA, the Consulate General of Serbia in Dusseldorf and the Serbian Orthodox Church.

- ❖ The Belgrade Chamber Choir performed at the International Festival of Easter Music in the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Brno (April 25).
- ❖ The Belgrade Chamber Orchestra “Pro Classica” was a guest at the 5th International Festival “Şefika Kutluer” in Ankara, co-organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Turkey and agency “TIKA” (November 8).
- ❖ The famous Serbian soprano Katarina Jovanovic and piano player Milena Petrovic held concerts in the Cairo Opera House (October 16) and Alexandria Opera House (October 18), co-organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Cairo and the Cairo Opera House. Those same artists performed at the residence of the Belgian Ambassador in Cairo, as part of the joint commemoration of the 100th WWI anniversary by the Embassies of Serbia and Belgium (the countries that were first attacked in the Great War on the Southern Front and Western Front, respectively).
- ❖ The Fourth Retrospective of the Serbian Film, held at the Finnish Film Foundation in Helsinki, October 24 – 26, organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Finland, the Association of the Serbian and Finnish Friendship and the Serbian Film Centre.
- ❖ The Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in The Hague and the organisation for promoting Serbian art and culture in the Netherlands “Network” jointly held “Day of the Serbian Cinematography” in “Rialto” cinema in Amsterdam, on October 16, 2014.
- ❖ The retrospective of Z. Zilnik’s films took place at the Berlin cinema “Arsenal”, in January 2014. The Embassy was a co-organiser together with the Serbian Film Centre.
- ❖ Through the collaboration of the Serbian embassies in the world and the Serbian Film Centre, Serbian cinematography participated in numerous film festivals, like: Eastern Neighbours Film Festival” in The Hague (the newest films from Eastern and Southeast Europe were screened), International Festival of Central and Eastern European Film, Cine-act in Luxembourg, International Documentary Film Festival Millennium in Brussels, 13th Mediterranean Film Festival in Brussels, “Al Este del Plata” Film Festival in Buenos Aires, 7th Panorama of the European Film in Cairo, 36th Cairo International Film Festival, European and Egyptian Film Festival in Luxor, Carthage Film Festival, 21st Film Festival in Beirut, Abu Dhabi Film Festival.
- ❖ The National Museum in Belgrade saw the return of 150 Roman coins from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, which the Federal Office of Culture in Switzerland handed over to our Embassy in Bern.

- ❖ On November 13, the Serbian Ambassador to Ankara celebrated at his residence the publishing of a new Serbian –Turkish dictionary, put together by Marija Djindjic and printed by the Turkish Language Association (TDK).
- ❖ Numerous programmes with cultural content were organised as a way of collecting humanitarian aid for the areas affected by floods in the Republic of Serbia, through the Serbian DCM's engagement worldwide.

LIST OF SIGNED BILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE

1. *Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture and Education between the Republic of Serbia and the Argentine Republic* – signed on October 26, 2014, during Minister Dacic's visit to Argentina.
2. *Agreement between the Government of Republic of Serbia and People's Republic of China on mutual establishment of cultural centres* – during the China – CEEC Summit in Belgrade, signed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic and the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Belgrade, December 17, 2014.
3. Programme of Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia in the fields of education, science, culture and sports for 2014, 2015, and 2016 – signed on March 5, 2014, in Tunis.

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL MATTERS

THE COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The Commission on International Humanitarian Law organised two meetings to discuss the development of international humanitarian law and issues regarding the adoption of new agreements and other documents.

The first meeting was held on May 10. It was also the ninth meeting of the Commission on International Humanitarian Law. On this occasion, the following issues were discussed;

1. Adoption of future tasks and consideration of Commission membership in 2014;
2. Review of the implementation of the rules of international humanitarian law concerning the refugee status;

3. Application of the rules of international humanitarian law by the European Court of Human Rights;
4. Application of the rules of international humanitarian law by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY);
5. International activities: report from the conference Expert Workshop on Health Care in Danger Project (HCiD), 29– 31 January 2014, Brussels).

The tenth meeting of the Commission on International Humanitarian Law followed on November 19. The issues discussed at this meeting included:

1. The accession of the Republic of Serbia to the Amendments to the Roman Statute of the International Criminal Court, concerning Article 8;
2. Establishment of a Consultative Committee under Resolution No 2 to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, of May 14, 1954;
3. Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the Convention on Cluster Munitions;
4. Expert Meeting on Unacceptability of Explosive Weapons Used in Populated Areas, February 2015;
5. Conference on Sanctioning International Humanitarian Law Violations for judicial authorities, May 2015;
6. Alignment with EU declarations on International Humanitarian Law;
7. Resolution adopted at the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly – Sixth Committee, concerning International Humanitarian Law.

A special place in the meeting was devoted to the presentation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), ratified by the Republic of Serbia.

All participants of the meeting were informed about the process of strengthening the alignment of national legal provisions with International Humanitarian Law.

SIGNED INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

No.	Draft Law on the Ratification of International Multilateral Agreements	Date of submission to the Government of the Republic of Serbia
1	Amendment to Article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.	07.05.2014
2	Original Conventions (1975) on Establishing the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, Original Protocol on the Privileges and	09.06.2014

	Immunities of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, Protocol on Amendments to the Convention on Establishing the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts and the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts and the Convention on Establishing the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts and the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts.	
3	Acts of the Universal Postal Union: The General Rulebook of the Universal Postal Union, Universal Postal Convention, Final Protocol of the Universal Postal Convention and the Arrangement on Postal and Financial Services.	01.07.2014
4	International Convention against Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries (UN Convention)	25.07.2014
5	Convention of the International Labour Organisation Number 94 on Labour Clauses of Public Contracts.	05.09.2014
6	Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) (United Nations)	30.09.2014
7	European Convention for the Protection of the Audio-visual Heritage (Council of Europe)	06.10.2014
8	Protocol on Flood Protection to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin	13.10.2014
9	Second Amendment to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)	17.10.2014
10	Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians	27.11.2014
11	Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians	28.11.2014
12	Memorandum of Understanding on the Institutional Framework of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (2013)	04.12.2014

GRAPHIC PRESENTATION OF SERBIA'S DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPRESENTATIONS ABROAD

Countries with a Serbian Embassy

Countries covered on a non-resident basis

Serbian Permanent Missions

Serbian Consulates