

Berlaymont, Brussels, 12/09/2007, Press briefing

**by EC President José Manuel BARROSO
and
Vojislav KOSTUNICA, Serbian Prime Minister**

It was a pleasure to meet again me Minister Kostunica Prime Minister Kostunica and I had a useful and constructive meeting where we reviewed EU-Serbia relations.

Together with Commissioner Rehn, I was very pleased to note the agreement last Monday on the content on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

We believe it will be a milestone in EU-Serbia relations and we are now in touching distance of this goal.

We believe it is important for the future of Serbia and we believe it is also important for Europe to have this kind of relation with Serbia.

Serbian citizens should look at Europe and I am sure they do as a synonym of prosperity and the guarantee of peace and stability in a region where stability and peace are needed.

So now we have a text but in order to conclude the process, we have encouraged Serbian to achieve full cooperation with international criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

We have discussed several issues regarding the situation in Serbia and we spoke about Kosovo and especially the state of discussion and the challenges, the region faces.

I stressed that we expected both Belgrade and Pristina to engage constructively in the ongoing process under the umbrella of the international troika. Europe union is represented there and that representative has our full support of the members' states.

We really believe that tangible progress should be achieved in the coming months. We are encouraging the relevant parties to show flexibility. Only political dialogue can bring the last thing and solid settlement.