

Serbian Cabinet

Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to BUSUN 2009! Welcome back to all of you who attended last year, and welcome also to the newcomers! My name is Cate Berger, and I will be acting as the chair of the Serbian Cabinet for the weekend. As such, I will also be acting as Prime Minister Mirko Cvetković (Мирко Цветковић).

I am a junior here at Brown University, and I am a Biology concentrator and will be attending Brown Medical School, beginning in Fall 2011. However, I have extensive Model U.N. experience, having participated in M.U.N. for all four years of high school at St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago, IL, as well as all my years here at Brown. I attended roughly 8-9 conferences as a high school student, was on the executive board of our club for 2 years, and ran our high school's conference my senior year. Here at Brown, I was Director of the Chinese Politburo in BUSUN 2007 and Undersecretary-General for BUSUN 2008.

Here at Brown, I am on the varsity Equestrian team, and I sing for an a cappella group on campus. I take courses mostly centering around human health and methods of healing, as well as the history of healing methods. At Brown, we have the great opportunity to take electives, as we have no core requirements. This is how I can study German and Biology, and I still have time to take other classes, such as Ancient Greek Religion, the Arab-Israeli Conflict and Peace Process, and the History of the Holocaust. If you have any questions about academic or student life at Brown, please don't hesitate to email me or ask me any questions at all during the weekend.

I am really looking forward to acting as your chair and Prime Minister, and please, feel free to email me at Catherine_Berger@brown.edu with any questions you have about committee, our topics, or our procedures. I am excited to meet you all! Please, come prepared to committee with the two topics well researched, as well as a general knowledge of Serbian national policy, and understand your position in committee as a particular minister. I do promise that taking the time to write a well-researched position paper will definitely prepare you for committee. This is a crisis committee, so you will need to know your position well in order to roll with the punches as

the crisis staff throws us into world-wide catastrophes! Get ready for a really fun, on-your-toes weekend!

See you soon!

Cate Berger
Serbian Cabinet Chair
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Committee Format and Rules of Debate

Committee sessions will generally proceed in informal debate (or "moderated caucus"), with speaking times proposed either by the Chair or by individual members. As a general rule, members are discouraged from talking amongst themselves while others are speaking, and should instead write notes to one another or motion for an unmoderated caucus, if the need to speak to multiple delegates about important issues is pressing. Delegates are asked not to leave the room at anytime during debate to discuss issues with other delegates in the Cabinet, as the committee is small. Not only that, but the committee should not take action without all of its members present.

The Chair reserves the right to interrupt debate to introduce news or guest speakers. As they are unwieldy for such a small committee and too time-intensive for use during a crisis, proposals made in UN Resolution format will be discouraged. Instead, members are encouraged to make use of different forms which are more appropriate for this committee: 1) press releases (for either national or international public communications), 2) party communiqués (for classified communications to another cabinet/committee), and 3) action orders (national action to be taken, i.e. army deployments, declarations of war) may all be used. Indeed, the nature of one policy issue may necessitate the use of all three forms. All proposals must first be submitted to the Chair in written form. After reviewing the proposal, the Chair will then call upon the author to present the proposal to the committee.

Each member of this committee is responsible for upholding the principles of the Serbian Constitution. However, some members hold specific responsibilities which may entitle them to privileged information. For example, the Minister of Foreign Affairs may desire an assessment of Serbia's deployed forces, and may request such information by writing a note to the Chair. At that point, it shall be the Prime Minister's prerogative to share that information with the entire committee or not. Generally, individual members should NOT make their own major policy decisions, even within the purview of their own ministry. For example, the Minister of Foreign

Affairs should not decide on his/her own to relinquish Serbia's territorial claims— such a decision would only cause that minister to lose face and invite the anger of other members. However, if members do want to make a decision that they feel is entirely within their purview, they must first seek written permission from the Chair/Prime Minister.

A Note about the President: The President is mostly a figurehead, with duties like handing out awards and suggesting a prime minister from a list given to him by the Assembly; he has had little influence on history. However, the position was granted a bit more power and influence in 2006, when the new Constitution gave the President the title of Commander in Chief. In our simulation, we will assume that the President supports all the Prime Minister's recommendations concerning the military.

Committee History^{1,2}

The history of the Serbian state follows many periods of transition. The state first began in 1918 as the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. In 1929, the name was changed to Yugoslavia. The state was occupied by Nazi Germany from 1941-1945, which was a time of suffering within the country. Paramilitants fought the Nazis and one another just as frequently, as ethnic rivalries ran strong. When German and Croatian separatists were defeated in 1945, Josip Tito, head of the Partisans political movement, took control of the country. The government was communist, but did not take sides between the East and West's Cold War conflict. After the fall of the communist regime in 1989, Slobodan Milosevic took charge of the Serbian Republic, a constituent unit of Yugoslavia, but his extremist nationalist rhetoric caused a schism of the state along ethnic borders, and in 1991, Croatia, Slovenia, and Macedonia became independent from Yugoslavia, as did Bosnia in 1992. Serbia and Montenegro regrouped and formed the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in April 1992, and still under Milosevic, conducted violent military operations to unite "Greater Serbia" and regain control over the former territories that had just claimed independence. As a result, Serbia and Montenegro was banned from the United Nations in 1992, a ban that was not to be lifted until 2001, after Milosevic was finally ousted in favor of Vojislav Kostunica in September 2000, with a

¹ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html#top>

² http://www.srbija.gov.rs/cinjenice_o_srbiji/ustav_odredbe.php?id=222

democratic reformist coalition was voted into Parliament in December of that same year. Parliament then had Milosevic arrested and sent to The Hague, where he was to be tried for crimes against humanity, before dying in 2006 with his trial incomplete. The Federation of Serbia and Montenegro was created in 2003, as the states became separate republics, joined only by a federal parliament. The Serbian state thus shrank again after Montenegro declared independence in 2006, following violent attacks on ethnic Serbs in Kosovo in March 2004. The Federation officially ended two days later, as Serbia created its own independent state, and a new constitution was passed in November 2006.

The current Serbian Government dates from July 7, 2008, when Mirko Cvetkovic was appointed Prime Minister, and thus Head of Government. He was appointed by the newly elected coalition, the Coalition for a European Serbia. Every time the 250 seat Serbian National Assembly, the unicameral house of legislature, elects a new ruling coalition, a new Government (NOT a new government, with a lowercase "g", but rather the ruling cabinet) is formed. This can happen every 4 years following a direct general election of the Assembly members. Chief of State, President Boris Tadić has been in power since July 11, 2004, as he was elected for a second term in February 2008.

Policies and Goals of the current Serbian Government

As stated by the Prime Minister upon his assumption to office in July of 2008: ³

Key policies and goals of the Government are:

- Commitment to a European future for Serbia,
- Non-acceptance of the independence of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija,
- Need to strengthen the economy,
- Increasing the social responsibility of the Government,
- Stepping up efforts to combat crime and corruption,
- Respecting international law.

In accordance with his first point, Prime Minister Cvetkovic states later in his speech, "Full fledged EU membership is the core interest of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens."⁴ As such, the Government is very concerned with achieving economic goals such as lower unemployment rates and a higher GDP. Serbia hopes it will

³ <http://www.srbija.gov.rs/vlada/>

⁴ See previous

begin a cycle of economic growth. It seeks to stimulate economy enough to meet the standards of the EU, and then become integrated into the EU, which will further stimulate the economy. Being in the EU would also advance Serbia's international status as it struggles to rise in prominence on the world scale. The Prime Minister's goal is to achieve EU membership by the end of his term in 2012, but the country still has a long way to go to meet EU standards. However, according to the Serbia EU Integration Office, the most recent news and progress is as follows: "the EU Commissioners for Justice and Enlargement, Jacques Barrot and Olli Rehn, intend to send a proposal to the EU Council by end-July asking that visa regime be abolished for Serbia from January 1, 2010."⁵ This is a crucial, if small, step on the way to Serbian EU membership.

Defense planning and upgrading defense systems, including forming a better-trained military, is also a goal of this new Government. Serbia plans to greatly increase its defensive power and reliability. However, as much as defense is emphasized, "international peace and stability" is off-handedly mentioned as a second purpose in developing the military and defense systems. What counts as an effort to enforce "international peace and stability" is left open for interpretation.

Debate Topics

The agenda for this meeting of the Serbian Cabinet consists of two important topics – both of which are central to Serbian foreign policy. Remember that Serbia is, perhaps, more internationally-visible now than it has been in generations, due to Kosovo's declaration of independence from the great Serbian nation in 2008, and many nations will be observing your decisions with great interest. Also, as you research these topics, remember that they do not exist in isolation – alliances or aggressive actions you make towards one nation will impact how others perceive you.

I urge you to read these topic briefs carefully and use the web and your local library to learn more about specific questions that interest you. You do not need to be an expert on all aspects of all topics, but your research should still help you to develop opinions and recommendations on specific points. When writing your position papers (which I highly encourage you to do), please refrain from writing broad overviews of topics;

⁵ <http://www.seio.sr.gov.yu/code/navigate.asp?Id=106>

instead, use the discussion questions at the end of the summaries to develop specific, focused policy recommendations that will be helpful for the committee as a whole. My recommendation is to write in three parts: 1) How your ministry has been involved in the topics in the past, 2) your ministry's current position on the topics, and 3) your ministry's plans to address the topic now, and general recommendations to the committee as a whole as to taking action on the two topics. Often for part three, you will need to speculate a great deal based on your research, where as parts one and two can be mostly written based on research.

Topic 1: Kosovar Succession

Background

Timeline (amended) from guardian.co.uk ⁶

- 1918: Kosovo becomes part of Serbian kingdom after the collapse of the Ottoman empire
- 1941: Much of Kosovo becomes part of an Italian-controlled greater Albania
- 1946: Kosovo absorbed into Yugoslav federation
- 1974: Yugoslav constitution recognizes autonomous status of Kosovo, giving the province de facto self-government
- 1981: Troops suppress separatist rioting in province
- 1987: Slobodan Milosevic begins rise to power with an address to Kosovo Serbs, declaring no one would "beat them" again
- 1989: Milosevic, now president, starts to cut Kosovo autonomy
- July 1990: Ethnic Albanian leaders declare independence. Belgrade dissolves Kosovo government
- September 1990: Serbia sacks more than 100,000 Albanian workers, triggering a general strike
- July 1992: Ibrahim Rugova elected president of self-proclaimed republic. Tension escalates
- March-Sept 1998: Clashes between Serb police and separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) Serb forces launch crackdown
- Sept 1998: NATO gives an ultimatum to Milosevic to stop repression

⁶ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/feb/08/kosovo.serbia>

- March 1999: NATO launches air strikes against Yugoslavia. Hundreds of thousands of Albanian refugees tell of massacres and forced expulsions
- June 1999: Milosevic agrees to withdraw troops. UN sets up a Kosovo Peace Implementation Force (Kfor) and NATO troops arrive. Serb civilians flee revenge attacks. [UNSC 1244 states that Kosovo is under the interim civil and military administration of the UN.]
- December 2003: UN sets out conditions for final status talks in 2005
- March 2004: 19 people killed in worst violence between Serbs and Albanians for five years
- Oct 2004: Rugova's pro-independence Democratic League tops poll in general election, winning 47 seats in 120-seat parliament. Serbs boycott vote
- Feb 2005 : Serbian president, Boris Tadić, promises to defend Serb rights in Kosovo during visit
- July 2006: First direct talks since 1999 between ethnic Serb and Kosovan leaders
- Oct 2006: A referendum in Serbia backs new constitution that declares Kosovo an integral part of the country. Kosovo Albanian majority boycotts the ballot
- Feb 2007: UN envoy Martti Ahtisaari unveils independence plan. Kosovo Albanians accept, but Serbia rejects it
- July 2007: US and EU re-draft UN resolution to drop promise of independence at Russian insistence, replacing it with pledge to review situation if there is no breakthrough in talks
- [February 2008: Kosovo declares independence as Republic of Kosovo; major European powers and the United States recognize the Republic of Kosovo, while the Republic of Serbia and Russia call the declaration illegal]

Current Situation

Officially, the Security Council Resolution 1244 holds, which states that Kosovo is under the interim civil and military administration of the United Nations. But, Kosovo is still considered, by the Security Council, a province of Serbia. The Serbian Government has consistently insisted it wants to UN to handle the matter concerning Kosovo, and since the UN has not declared in a resolution that Kosovo is independent, Serbia sees the Kosovo succession as illegal. One of Serbia's Government's goal is respecting and upholding international law, and

“Insisting on respect of international law by other countries is our crucial argument in our fight to safeguard Kosovo and Metohija as an integral part of Serbia.”⁷

The Serbian Constitution claims Kosovo, in its preamble, as a province of the country: “[the] Province of Kosovo and Metohija is an integral part of the territory of Serbia... it has the status of a substantial autonomy.”⁸ In addition, the Prime Minister, in his keynote address to the public, stated:⁹

“There is full consent among the coalition members that the new Government of the Republic of Serbia will never recognize the independence of Kosovo and Metohija and that the Government, in cooperation with other government bodies, will undertake all legal and diplomatic measures so as to preserve Kosovo and Metohija as an integral part of the Republic of Serbia. To that effect, the new Government will continue with its diplomatic activities geared at having as few countries as possible recognize the independence of Kosovo and Metohija.”

He is quite clear on the national position on the topic of Kosovo. He also states that continued efforts towards negotiation, and humanitarian efforts to help the Serbian people in Kosovo and Metohija will be undertaken.

Current Global Opinions

The United States and most European states have recognized Kosovo as an independent state. Herein lies a problem: Serbia desires closer relations to the United States, as stated by the Prime Minister in his keynote speech. He believes the United States to be an influential nation, the “greatest global power”¹⁰; also, the current Coalition wishes Serbia to gain entrance into the European Union. Yet these are the peoples, European and American, which do not support Serbia in the issue of Kosovo. Serbia desires ties also with states that do not recognize Kosovo, especially Russia. Many of Russia's policies are in direct juxtaposition to American and European interests. This is, again, a problem.

If it came to another UNSC vote, Russia would veto any resolution making Kosovo independent. China has

⁷ <http://www.srbija.gov.rs/pages/article.php?id=46940>

⁸ http://www.srbija.gov.rs/cinjenice_o_srbiji/ustav.php

⁹ <http://www.srbija.gov.rs/pages/article.php?id=46940>

¹⁰ <http://www.srbija.gov.rs/pages/article.php?id=46940>

already expressed concerns over the declaration of independence, and would likely veto the resolution as well.

Questions to Consider

1. How can Serbia both maintain relations with European nations and retain Kosovo as part of Serbia?
2. Despite UN decree, Kosovo has declared independence and acts independent, at the applause of many powerful nations. How will Serbia garner support for its side in the matter?
3. In what ways can Serbia support Serbians living in the Kosovo and Metohija territory?

Topic 2: Relations with Russia and NATO

Background

NATO

The NATO official website succinctly and clearly outlines the history of the relationship between NATO and Serbia.¹¹

- “1999: A 78-day NATO air campaign is triggered by ethnic repression in Kosovo. The NATO-led
- 1999: Kosovo peacekeeping force (KFOR) is deployed to maintain security and support reconstruction efforts. KFOR and Serbian Armed Forces sign Military Technical Agreement (Kumanovo Agreement)
- 2001: NATO and the newly elected government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia cooperate in crisis-management operations in southern Serbia
- 2003: Belgrade formally applies for PFP membership.
- 2003: The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is replaced by a looser state union of Serbia and Montenegro.
- 2003: NATO completes a PFP trust fund project to destroy 28,000 surplus small arms and light weapons in Serbia
- 2005: Serbia hosts a PFP trust fund workshop ‘Together reducing unsafe surplus tools of war’ in Belgrade.

- 2005: Serbia and NATO sign a transit agreement for KFOR forces.
- 2005: NATO launches a PFP trust fund project to develop alternative livelihoods for former Serbian armed forces personnel as the service is downsized
- 2006: Serbia joins the Partnership for Peace.
- 2006: NATO opens a military liaison office in Belgrade.
- 2007: Serbia joins the PFP Planning and Review Process (PARP).
- 2007: NATO completes a PFP trust fund project that safely removed 1.4 million anti-personnel landmines from Serbian territory.
- 2007: In September, Serbia submits its PFP Presentation Document to NATO.
- 2009: Serbia agrees its first Individual Partnership Programme with NATO.”

Russia

Serbia and Russia have a long history of alliance and cooperation. Russia has consistently backed Serbia in denouncing the Kosovo declaration of independence and continuously shot down attempts in the UN Security Council to pass a resolution recognizing Kosovo’s independence. Russian and Serbian officials have met and discussed areas of interest roughly 10 to 15 times per year from 2000-2005, and even more in recent times. However, long before current times, Russia and Serbia cooperated. Some sources say positive relations extend as far back as 1838,¹² while others maintain Serbian-Russian relations were crucial to Serbia and Russia as far back as 1804.^{13, 14} Serbs needed Russian backing in uniting all the Serb lands, and Russia used its influence in the Balkans to its own advantage. In fact, the Russo-Turkish war in 1877-1878 occurred because Russia supported Serbs in a rebellion against Turks in Herzegovina in 1875.

Current Situation

Russia

Although Serbia is interested in developing a relationship with the U.S., as it is the “greatest global power”, its main interest is “to cooperate closely with the Russian Federation and all other countries which are opposed to or which have not recognized the independence of Kosovo and Metohija.” Russia sees Kosovo’s declaration of independence to be illegal and backs Serbia in its refusal

¹¹ <http://www.nato.int/issues/nato-serbia/index.html>

¹² http://www.mfa.gov.rs/Policy/Bilateral/Russia/basic_e.html

¹³ <http://www.answers.com/topic/relations-with-serbia>

¹⁴ <http://net.lib.byu.edu/estu/wwi/comment/sovserb.htm>

to recognize independence. Russia sees the unilateral declaration of independence as a dangerous act. The government fears the precedent it may set, and points out the Kosovo flouted UN due process and the carefully constructed international relations and diplomacy scheme the UN has mapped out over the decades.

Serbia also courts Russian favor for economic reasons. In December 2008, Serbia and Russia signed an agreement stating that Russia would handle Serbia's oil monopoly NIS. In return, the Russian Federation, by 2015, would extend Gazprom's South Steam pipeline through Serbia, reaching southern Europe, and expanding its market. Gazprom is Russia's largest natural gas company, and the Russian Federation has a controlling stake in the company. Gazprom accounted for 10% of the Russian Federation's GDP in 2008. It produced 549.7 billion cubic meters of natural gas, 17% of global gas production. However, Serbia's relations with Russia strain its relationship with the EU and the United States. These two entities support a competing pipeline from Central Asia called Nabucco. The EU and US, and NATO, mean to reduce European dependency on Russian natural gas. The relations between Serbia and the western world grow a bit unclear, as the West and Serbia are on opposing sides in the battle to reach Southern Europe by pipeline.

NATO

In early 2009, Serbia submitted its first Individual Partnership program, as indicated in the timeline. This means that the Serbian Government outlined specific events and general areas of cooperation in which it wishes to participate. This includes giving full cooperation in the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Serbia has already shown its willingness to cooperate with NATO and eagerness to foster a relationship by signing an agreement to share information in 2008, cooperating with NATO in 2001 to quell violence in Southern Serbia, and prior to becoming a formal member of Partnership for Peace (PfP), cooperated with NATO in limited security cooperation and defense reform. NATO and Serbia plan to further cooperate in the areas of science, security, and environment protection.

Questions to Consider

1. How can Serbia further develop a relationship with Russia, and yet not strain its relationship to the EU, US, and NATO?
2. What should Serbia's next step be in fostering relations with NATO?

3. What are other risks associated with the economic agreement signed with the Russian Federation, and what should the Government do about them?

Personalities

The following select group of ministers and military officials will take part in our discussions.

1. First Deputy Prime Minister (Ministry of Internal Affairs) Ivica Dačić
2. Deputy Prime Minister (Ministry of Economy and Regional Development) Mlađan Dinkić
3. Deputy Prime Minister (Ministry of Science and Technological Development) Božidar Đelić
4. Deputy Prime Minister (Social Affairs) Jovan Krkobabić
5. Secretary-General Tamara Stojčević
6. Minister of Foreign Affairs Vuk Jeremić
7. Minister of Defence Dragan Šutanovac
8. Minister of Trade and Services Slobodan Milosavljević
9. Minister of Kosovo and Metohija Goran Bogdanović
10. Minister of Justice Snežana Malović
11. Minister of Finance Diana Dragutinović
12. Minister of Human and Minority Rights Svetozar Čiplić

All officials will be able to participate fully in debating and drafting proposals.

Please review the biography of your assigned official at the Serbian Government website (see Helpful Resources). Consider their past positions, their upbringing, education, military experience, and foreign travel and attempt to construct a personality and opinions for them. Search for them in the news and review their recent accomplishments, speeches, and the like. The more you know about your official, the more fun you will have representing them in November. At the same time, if you have distinct, well-reasoned opinions about Serbia yourself, try your hand at integrating them into the character you've been assigned.

Helpful Resources

In addition to the resources listed below, be sure to keep an eye on a major international news source (or two). This will help you keep abreast of major developments in Serbia's foreign policy and provide real-world evidence for your policy positions. Some of the best news sources for the purposes of your research include the BBC, New York Times, Financial Times, The Economist, Sunday Times, and the Washington Post. Feel free to supplement your media reviews with information from blogs and such sites as Wikipedia – but be sure to check the veracity of their

reports and double check the facts on a reputable site.
HINT: websites with .gov and .edu endings contain much more reliable information. Remember that all websites, however, retain a bias, and even if they are presenting facts, they will represent them with an agenda in mind.

If you need any help with research, please feel free to email the Chair.

Serbian Government Website

<http://www.srbija.gov.rs/>

Has useful statistics about the country, recent news concerning Kosovo and Politics, and much more

Serbian Constitution of 2006

http://www.srbija.gov.rs/cinjenice_o_srbiji/ustav.php

Prime Minister's First Address to the people

<http://www.srbija.gov.rs/pages/article.php?id=46940>

** Facts about Cabinet Ministers Found Here!

<http://www.srbija.gov.rs/vlada/sastav.php>

CIA World Factbook entry for Serbia

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html>

Look up information about countries relevant to Serbian foreign policy, as well

Kosovo Government Website

<http://www.ks-gov.net/portal/eng.htm>

Tanjug, a Serbian Newspaper

<http://www.tanjug.rs/DefaultE.aspx>

Official NATO website

<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>

NATO article on relations with Serbia

<http://www.nato.int/issues/nato-serbia/index.html>

This article goes in depth into the timeline printed previously, and the links on the sidebar let you explore further Serbia's role in Partnership for Peace (PfP) and NATO work in the Balkans.