

Country/entity	Kosovo Serbia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue: EU Proposal - Agreement on the path to normalisation between Kosovo and Serbia
Date	27 Feb 2023
Agreement status	Status unclear
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)

Former Yugoslavia

The disintegration of former Yugoslavia post cold war saw conflicts which became mediated and produced peace agreements in Slovenia (where the brief independence conflict was mediated by the EC Troika in 1991), Croatia (between Croatian and Serb populations 1991-1995), in Bosnia (between Croatian, Serb and Bosniak populations 1992-1995), in Macedonia (where mediation played a key pre-emptive role in preventing large scale conflict in 2001), in Kosovo (between Kosovar Albanians and Serbian population and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), but also between FRY and NATO, 1998-1999), and a conflict in the Presevo Valley (between Albanians in South Serbia and FRY, 2000-2001). The continued fall-out of the disintegration of former Yugoslavia also saw mediated agreement and ultimate dissolution of the Union between Serbia and Montenegro.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

In 1991, after nationalist parties won the first multi-party elections in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a violent process of disintegration commenced. With its mixed population, Bosnia-Herzegovina became the centre of the following civil war that began in 1992 between the newly formed army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (mostly Muslim Bosniacs), and the parastatal forces of self-declared Bosnian Croat (Herzeg-Bosnia) and Bosnian Serb (Republika Srpska) entities within Bosnia-Herzegovina, supported by Croatia and Serbia, with various, often short-lived, coalitions. The General Framework Agreement (Dayton Peace Agreement), signed in 1995, split the country into two ethno-federal entities, the Bosniak-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska, and included continued peacekeeping and institutional administration by international actors.

Kosovo

The conflict between Serbs and Kosovar Albanians has a long history and always involved territorial disputes as well as ethno-political, cultural and linguistic factors. The most recent phase of the conflict began in November 1997 when the Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA or UCK) began their campaign for the independence of Kosovo from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY – then Serbia and Montenegro). The subsequent war lasted until the NATO intervention, which undertook bombing campaigns of Belgrade and other places in Serbia during spring 1999. The main agreements solving the conflict were internationally driven and, finally, a UNSC resolution imposed a post-conflict arrangement in the wake of what was essentially a NATO military victory. In February 2008, Kosovo's parliament declared independence, but independence is still internationally disputed.

Close

Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)

Stage

Implementation/renegotiation

Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Kosovo-Serbia Normalisation Process
Parties	Kosovar prime minister Albin Kurti, Serbian president Aleksandar Vučić
Third parties	Josep Borrell - European Union
Description	<p>Serbia and Kosovo tacitly approved an EU proposal to normalise relations, led by EU's chief diplomat Josep Borrell during talks in Brussels. The EU-brokered plan, supported by all 27 member states, outlines 11 points including each party's commitment to non-violence, mutual recognition of official documents, and non-obstruction of each other's progress towards EU membership. The finalisation and implementation of the plan will be discussed in further leaders' talks, focusing on the specifics of an annexe and potential resolutions to contentious issues, aiming ultimately for a legally binding agreement on comprehensive normalisation of relations. Status of agreement is listed as 'unclear' due to post-hoc dispute as to whether this was actually agreed and accepted by all parties.</p>

Agreement document [XK_RS_230227_Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue_EU Proposal_Agreement on the path to normalisation between Kosovo and Serbia.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/national group Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical
 Aware that the inviolability of frontiers and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and the protection of national minorities are a basic condition for peace, (Locate in agreement)
 Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive
Article 7
 Both Parties commit to establish specific arrangements and guarantees, in accordance with relevant Council of Europe instruments and by drawing on existing European experiences, to ensure an appropriate level of self-management for the Serbian community in Kosovo and ability for service provision in specific areas, including the possibility for financial support by Serbia and a direct communication channel for the Serbian community to the Government of Kosovo.
 (Locate in agreement)

Religious groups	Groups→Religious groups→Substantive Article 7 ... The Parties shall formalise the status of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo and afford strong level of protection to the Serbian religious and cultural heritage sites, in line with existing European models. (Locate in agreement)
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/displaced persons	Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical Article 6 ... The Parties agree to deepen future cooperation in the fields of economy, science and technology, transport and connectivity, judicial and law enforcement relations, posts and telecommunications, health, culture, religion, sport, environmental protection, missing persons, displaced persons and other similar areas through the conclusion of specific agreements. (Locate in agreement)
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender	No specific mention.
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general)	<p>Aware that the inviolability of frontiers and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and the protection of national minorities are a basic condition for peace, Locate in agreement</p> <p>...</p> <p>Article 2</p> <p>Both Parties will be guided by the aims and principles laid down in the United Nations Charter, especially those of the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their independence, autonomy and territorial integrity, the right of self-determination, the protection of human rights, and non-discrimination.</p> <p>Locate in agreement</p>
State configuration	No specific mention.
Self determination	<p>Article 2</p> <p>Both Parties will be guided by the aims and principles laid down in the United Nations Charter, especially those of the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their independence, autonomy and territorial integrity, the right of self-determination, the protection of human rights, and non-discrimination.</p> <p>Locate in agreement</p>
Referendum	No specific mention.
State symbols	<p>Article 1</p> <p>...</p> <p>Both Parties shall mutually recognise their respective documents and national symbols, including passports, diplomas, licence plates, and customs stamps.</p> <p>Locate in agreement</p>
Independence/secession	<p>Article 2</p> <p>Both Parties will be guided by the aims and principles laid down in the United Nations Charter, especially those of the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their independence, autonomy and territorial integrity, the right of self-determination, the protection of human rights, and non-discrimination.</p> <p>Locate in agreement</p>
Accession/unification	No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision

Article 1

The Parties shall develop normal, good-neighbourly relations with each other on the basis of equal rights.

Locate in agreement

...

Article 6

...

The Parties agree to deepen future cooperation in the fields of economy, science and technology, transport and connectivity, judicial and law enforcement relations, posts and telecommunications, health, culture, religion, sport, environmental protection, missing persons, displaced persons and other similar areas through the conclusion of specific agreements.

Locate in agreement

...

Article 7

Both Parties commit to establish specific arrangements and guarantees, in accordance with relevant Council of Europe instruments and by drawing on existing European experiences, to ensure an appropriate level of self-management for the Serbian community in Kosovo and ability for service provision in specific areas, including the possibility for financial support by Serbia and a direct communication channel for the Serbian community to the Government of Kosovo.

Locate in agreement

...

Article 8

The Parties shall exchange Permanent Missions.

Locate in agreement

They shall be established at the respective Government's seat.

Locate in agreement

Practical questions relating to the establishment of the Missions shall be dealt with separately.

Locate in agreement

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)

No specific mention.

Elections

No specific mention.

Electoral commission

No specific mention.

Political parties reform

No specific mention.

Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/ religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Local/municipal government
Article 7
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 (Locate in agreement)

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation **Article 2**
Both Parties will be guided by the aims and principles laid down in the United Nations Charter, especially those of the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their independence, autonomy and territorial integrity, the right of self-determination, the protection of human rights, and non-discrimination.
Locate in agreement

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media logistics
Article 6
...
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(Locate in agreement)

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts **Article 6**
...
The Parties agree to deepen future cooperation in the fields of economy, science and technology, transport and connectivity, judicial and law enforcement relations, posts and telecommunications, health, culture, religion, sport, environmental protection, missing persons, displaced persons and other similar areas through the conclusion of specific agreements.
Locate in agreement

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction	<p>Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development</p> <p>Article 6</p> <p>...</p> <p>The Parties agree to deepen future cooperation in the fields of economy, science and technology, transport and connectivity, judicial and law enforcement relations, posts and telecommunications, health, culture, religion, sport, environmental protection, missing persons, displaced persons and other similar areas through the conclusion of specific agreements.</p> <p>(Locate in agreement)</p> <p>...</p> <p>Article 7</p> <p>Both Parties commit to establish specific arrangements and guarantees, in accordance with relevant Council of Europe instruments and by drawing on existing European experiences, to ensure an appropriate level of self-management for the Serbian community in Kosovo and ability for service provision in specific areas, including the possibility for financial support by Serbia and a direct communication channel for the Serbian community to the Government of Kosovo.</p> <p>(Locate in agreement)</p> <p>...</p> <p>Article 9</p> <p>Both Parties take note of the EU’s and other donors’ commitment to establish a special investment and financial support package for joint projects of the Parties in economic development, connectivity, green transition and other key areas.</p> <p>(Locate in agreement)</p> <p>Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Infrastructure and reconstruction</p> <p>Article 6</p> <p>...</p> <p>The Parties agree to deepen future cooperation in the fields of economy, science and technology, transport and connectivity, judicial and law enforcement relations, posts and telecommunications, health, culture, religion, sport, environmental protection, missing persons, displaced persons and other similar areas through the conclusion of specific agreements.</p> <p>(Locate in agreement)</p>
National economic plan	No specific mention.
Natural resources	No specific mention.

International funds Article 7

Both Parties commit to establish specific arrangements and guarantees, in accordance with relevant Council of Europe instruments and by drawing on existing European experiences, to ensure an appropriate level of self-management for the Serbian community in Kosovo and ability for service provision in specific areas, including the possibility for financial support by Serbia and a direct communication channel for the Serbian community to the Government of Kosovo.

Locate in agreement

...

Article 9

Both Parties take note of the EU's and other donors' commitment to establish a special investment and financial support package for joint projects of the Parties in economic development, connectivity, green transition and other key areas.

Locate in agreement

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

Cultural heritage Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Other

Article 6

...

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(Locate in agreement)

Environment**Article 6**

...

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Locate in agreement

...

Article 9

Both Parties take note of the EU's and other donors' commitment to establish a special investment and financial support package for joint projects of the Parties in economic development, connectivity, green transition and other key areas.

Locate in agreement

Water or riparian rights or access

No specific mention.

Security sector**Security Guarantees**

No specific mention.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments

Article 3

In conformity with the United Nations Charter, the Parties shall settle any disputes between them exclusively by peaceful means and refrain from the threat or use of force. (Locate in agreement)

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces

No specific mention.

Corruption

No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons **Article 6**

...

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Locate in agreement

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism

Article 10
The Parties shall establish a joint Committee, chaired by the EU, for monitoring the implementation of this Agreement.
Locate in agreement
Both Parties confirm their obligation to implement all past Dialogue agreements, which remain valid and binding.
Locate in agreement

Article 11
Both Parties commit to respect the Implementation Roadmap annexed to this Agreement.
Locate in agreement

Related cases No specific mention.

Source No specific mention.