



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic estimated that the statement by Bojan Pajtic saying that the U.S. had been concerned over the interference of Russia in the formation of a new Government was a case of unbelievable hypocrisy.

"While they were favourites and exponents of the West in Serbia, the Democrats would never object to foreign influence on the establishment of Government in Serbia. They did not mind in 2008, when I was received calls from throughout the Western hemisphere asking me to extend support to Tadic. They did not mind Papandreou, Steinmeier, Asselborn, Moratinos or in 2012, Catherine Ashton, R  cker, et al. Yet these days, Pajtic allegedly has an issue with Russian influence.

And who are the important American and European figures he might have talked to in the U.S., since neither Prime Minister Vucic nor I have heard nothing of the sort from the mouths of either Biden, Kerry, Nuland, Mogherini, Merkel, Holland and others. From no one. On the contrary, they had nothing but words of praise for Serbia's state policy and its path.

Pajtic objects to the Serbian-Russian humanitarian centre in Nis, but why doesn't he say that the Agreement on it was signed by Shoygu and myself in the presence of Tadic and Medvedev, during his visit to Serbia. How come that Pajtic had no objections to this at the time?

The Serbian Government is not being formed by anyone from abroad, except by the Prime Minister-designate Aleksandar Vucic, because this is what the citizens of Serbia said at the polls by making the best assessment of every politician, Pajtic included, who barely passed the threshold. We are on a path that is well-known – EU membership, friendship with Russia and China, partnership with influential countries worldwide, such as the U.S. and Germany, but above all, our goal is a strong, respected and developed Serbia."