

Q: Have you followed the events at the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of China, and what are your expectations of the cooperation with China in the coming period?

A: We followed, like the whole world, what was happening at the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of China since it received world-wide attention. We in Serbia have paid close attention to it, because we are aware that the decisions of the Congress have a far-reaching significance and impact not only on the internal development of China but also on the international development and engagement of China in the world. China is one of Serbia's best friends and it is understandable that we too followed it. I would like, first of all, to take this opportunity to extend my cordial congratulations to the newly elected leadership of China, wishing them good health and the best of luck in the performance of their highly important and serious duties ahead of them. I am sure that the new leadership will continue to follow the path that has been solidly paved so far and that our ties will become even stronger and closer in future.

Q: How do you assess the overall Chinese-Serbian relations?

A: I describe the overall Serbian-Chinese relationship as that of a true friendship, as an example of relations that all the countries of the world should develop. We are happy to have established such special relations with this country.

Q: What is your opinion of the operation of the China Central and Eastern European countries Cooperation Secretariat?

A: From the very beginning Serbia has fully supported the mechanism of cooperation between China and the Central and Southeast European countries. Proof of this was the appointment of the Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development Zarko Obradovic as the National Coordinator on behalf of Serbia. When the Secretariat was established and after the first meeting of the coordinators last September, Serbia has submitted a number of proposals and projects for cooperation with China in the form initiated by China. Serbia has expressed a desire to host a high-level event within that mechanism next year and thus make its direct contribution.

Q: In which areas can Serbian-Chinese cooperation be deepened?

A: There is room for deepening our relations literally in all walks of life and in all areas of inter-state cooperation, but I would particularly emphasize infrastructure and energy. China is already involved in the construction of a bridge which is popularly referred to as the "Chinese bridge". We also expect China to be engaged in the revitalization of the Kostolac thermal power plant "Nikola Tesla" near Obrenovac. As the foremost areas of cooperation, I would single out energy and infrastructure, but this does not exhaust the list of areas in which we are pursuing and should continue to strengthen our cooperation.

Q. Will you be paying a visit to the PR of China in due course?

A: I hope so. Fortunately, I visited China during the official visit by Vuk Jeremic, the current

President of the UN General Assembly, to this country. I was fortunate and honoured to meet the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, Mr. Shi Jinping. I hope that I will soon have an opportunity to visit China, but I also wish and would be very pleased if the President of China, its Prime Minister and my counterpart, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited my country.