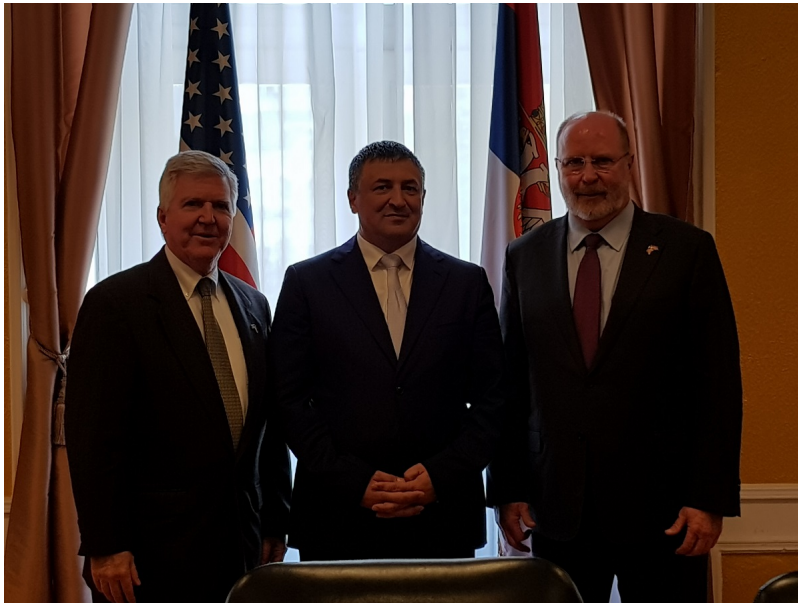




State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Toncev had talks today with U.S. Ambassador to Serbia Kyle Scott and U.S. Ambassador to Croatia Robert Kohorst.

During the talks, the State Secretary emphasized that the relations between Serbia and the United States were of extreme importance to our country. He underlined that Serbia was firmly committed to EU membership and that it was investing efforts towards regional stability and development.

U.S. Ambassadors were interested in the bilateral relations between Serbia and Croatia and the State Secretary provided a detailed account thereof, pointing out that a number of joint commissions and committees had been established to deal with the bilateral issues.

State Secretary Ivica Toncev told his collocutors that Serbia's primary goal was to maintain peace, stability and safety of the Western Balkan region to which we contributed by our constructive approach and would continue to do so in the future as well. He emphasized that the relations between Serbia and Croatia were of crucial importance to the regional stability and that incidents such as the one during the visit of the Members of the Croatian Parliament to the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia should not be heeded. He said that during his recent visit to Zagreb President Vucic was also exposed to even more offensive acts but still did not cut short his visit which was surely good since it invigorated the dialogue between the two neighboring countries.

The collocutors agreed that good relations between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Croatia were of particular importance to the lasting stability of the Western Balkans.