



"Visit to Paraguay was of exceptional importance as it was the first visit made in the history of our bilateral relations.

Paraguay did not recognize the unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo and huge pressure was mounted on it for that reason resulting in Paraguay's vote in favour of Kosovo's membership bid to Interpol. This is why it was necessary to reset our relations.

I had fruitful talks with the President and the Foreign Minister of Paraguay. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay sent a clear message that Paraguay's door for the unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo and the Pristina leadership were closed and that Paraguay would not change its position.

Our goal is to forge friendly relations, not only over Kosovo but also with the aim of promoting our relations in all areas.

The Foreign Minister of Paraguay will pay a visit to Serbia by the end of this year while next year's schedule includes a Presidential visit from Paraguay.

Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic, Official and Special Passports has been signed today.

Economic cooperation between our two countries is very low. Paraguay is the world's sixth beef exporter and one of the biggest producers of soybean, and it is also a country which mainly

exports to our friendly countries Russia and Turkey, making it a huge potential for economic cooperation.

We expect a trade delegation of Paraguay to accompany the Foreign Minister's visit to Serbia which will create an opportunity to prepare another successful visit by the President.

A significant number of people of Serbian origin live in Paraguay. These are third and fourth generations of people who migrated more than tens of years ago and who do not even speak Serbian well. Although they are citizens of Argentina and Paraguay, they feel like Serbs, they foster Serbian culture and identity. One of these families is the Hjusic family who have given honorary consuls for three generations, dating back to the 1920s. There are also many reputable people in the fields of culture and business who constitute the link with Paraguay.

These successful and very beneficial visits to the Argentine and Uruguay resulted in the achievement of our goal and that is the assertion of our position in Paraguay so that the situation such as the one at the last Interpol meeting will not reoccur", Minister Dacic said, ending his visit to Paraguay.

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