



The European Commission has recommended, at the EU Foreign Ministers meeting in Luxembourg, that negotiations on Serbia's EU membership should be opened.

The report that was made public, states that Serbia has taken very important steps towards a visible and sustainable improvement of relations with Kosovo in line with the Council conclusions of December 2012.

The Commission concluded that Serbia was "actively and constructively" engaged in the dialogue and that it covered the whole range of issues to achieve sustainable improvement of relations.

The report presents in detail the chronology of the dialogue, all the rounds and the meeting of the President of the Republic of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic with Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga, emphasizing the successful implementation of the agreement on integrated border management.

The Commission points out in the report the reaching of an agreement between Belgrade and Pristina on 19 April in Brussels, stating that the two sides demonstrated commitment and engagement in the process.

"The two sides agreed that the outcome of their discussions should be a set of principles that would give the Kosovo Serb community a new vision of their future, by addressing their concerns and needs, but in a way that preserved the functionality of the Kosovo institutions and legal framework", says the report. The EU expects, as stated at the end of the chapter related to the dialogue, that the two parties "in the spirit of the new relation/understanding between them and without prejudice to the positions on the status of Kosovo, will continue to work further for the normalization of relations between them and in this framework will address, among other issues, Kosovo's integration/participation in international bodies." When it comes to the conduct of the dialogue itself, it is pointed out that "the two Prime Ministers" made particularly good working relations and demonstrated political courage and maturity in discussing very sensitive and complex issues, often in the circumstances of a fraught political atmosphere. "They should be commended," said the report and recalls that the last stage of the dialogue was also joined by the Deputy Prime Ministers which strengthened legitimacy at the negotiating table.