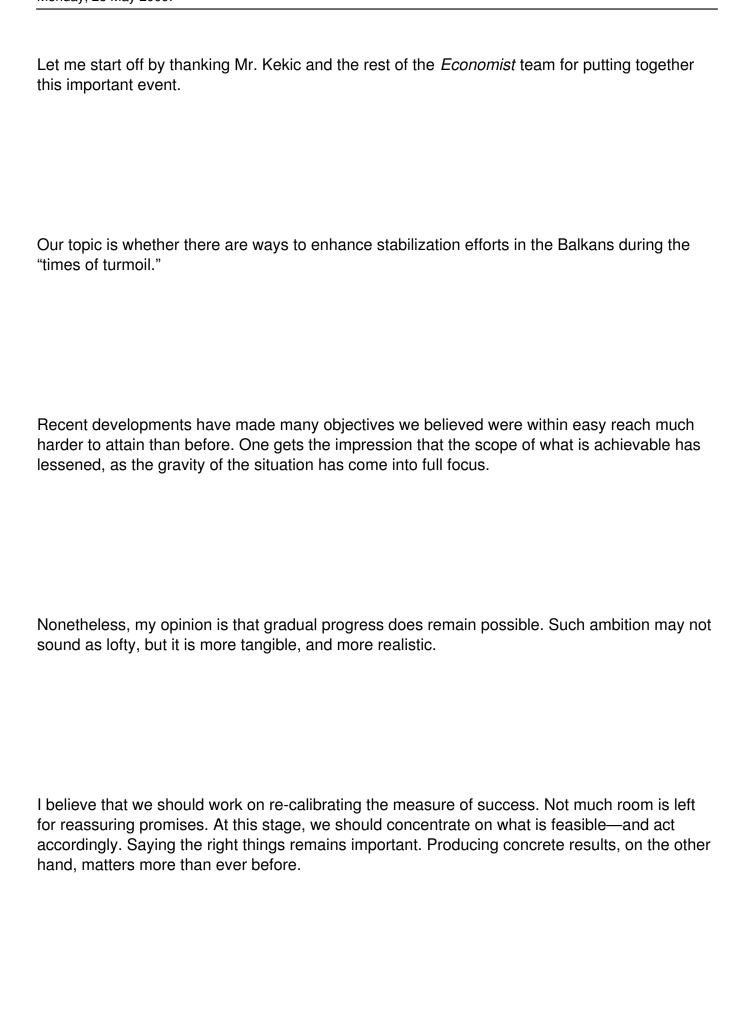
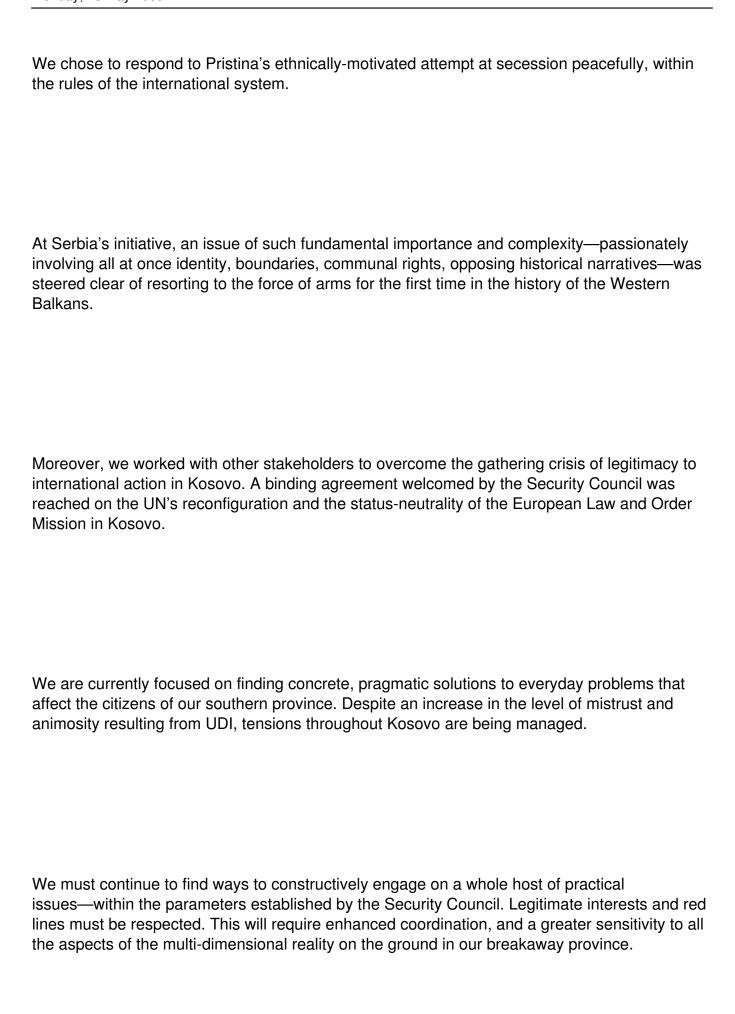
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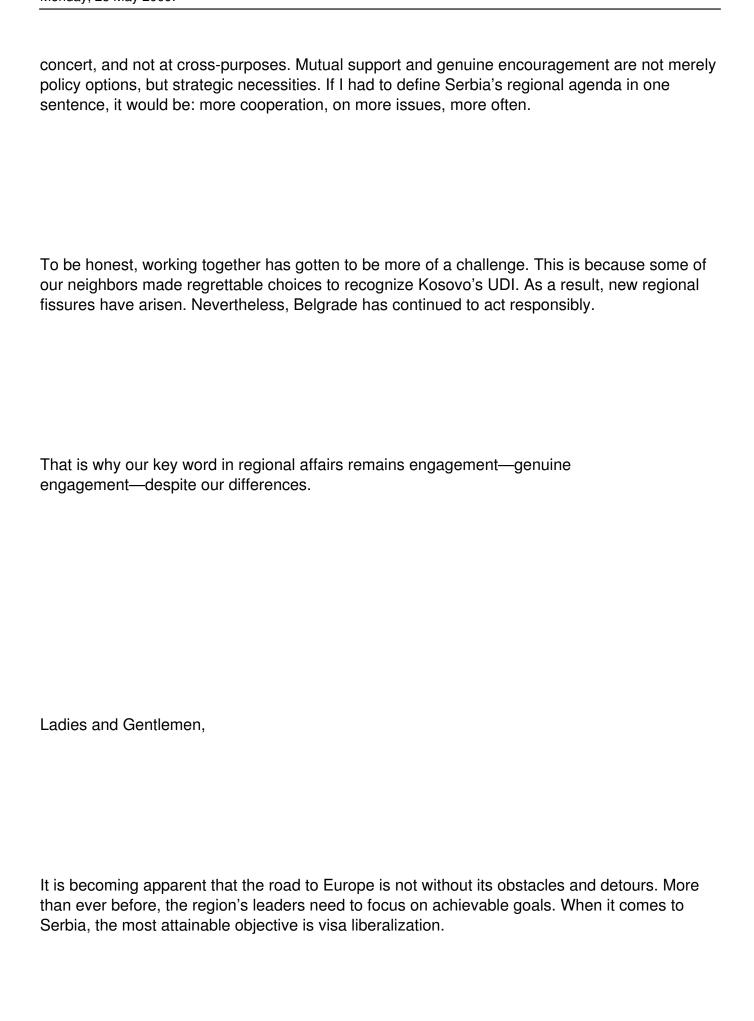
Address to the 13th Annual Economist Government Roundtable on Driving the New Agenda for Global Roundtable, 25 May 2009.
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Under the leadership of President Boris Tadic, the Republic of Serbia will continue with responsible and constructive policies. Every step we take is meant to enhance the stability of the Western Balkans.
We have been doing this under incredibly trying circumstances. It is no exaggeration to say that we are in the most difficult period of our political transition to date.
We had two elections in the first half of last year: one presidential, the other parliamentary. These were, as a matter of fact, referenda about how to interact with the world of today. Our citizens were given a clear choice. And they decided to cast their vote for a European future. Twice.
All this took place in the somber context of the unilateral declaration of independence by the ethnic Albanian authorities of our southern province of Kosovo.

At the time, we made our constitution, and	e it clear that we would never recognize UDI. This position is enshrined in will not change.
	portunity to reaffirm our gratitude to the vast majority of UN member States, c Republic, for their principled respect of Serbia's sovereignty and territorial
The solidarity and su our endeavor.	pport we have received is giving us confidence in the ultimate success of
∟adies and Gentleme	en,



_adies and Gentlemen,	
Serbia's strategic decision to contest the Kosovo issue at the International Couprevailing in the United Nations General Assembly—constituted a paradigm shipeace in the Western Balkans.	
The Court will take about a year to deliberate on the matter. The case of Kosov secession has attracted enormous attention from all corners of the world—as the control of the control of the case of the world—as the control of the c	ne active
carticipation before the Court of thirty-six countries in the UDI proceedings mak the first time ever that the ICJ has been asked to consider the legality of a move cartition a UN member State, in defiance of the Security Council.	
	Name and the second
The Court's conclusions will have far-reaching consequences for the United Na a whole. That is why it is so important that the judicial process be allowed to rur of political interference.	•

We should all respect the fact that the ICJ is deliberating on the issue. No one should pre-judge the Court's deliberations. Therefore, new UDI recognitions should not be encouraged. And multilateral bodies should not be pressured to extend membership to the secessionist authorities in Pristina. Such initiatives could only upset the unstable equilibrium on the ground, which is surely not in anyone's interest.
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Another priority item of our foreign policy agenda is the enhancement of regional cooperation in the Western Balkans.
Serbia is an indispensable anchor of stability in the Western Balkans—a critical component in the achievement of the central strategic priority our countries share: membership in the European Union.
I remain firmly convinced that the process of enlargement can only be completed by working in



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Freedom of movement, the right to travel visa-free, is an embodiment of what the EU is to the average citizen of Serbia.
Restrictions on travel to Europe should be lifted. They constitute an undue burden on our people. The bureaucratic impediments are relics of a past we have moved far, far beyond. Frankly, their maintenance is indefensible.
There should be no such thing as a second-class European. There should be no distinction between those who are free, and those who are less free.
This issue needs to be resolved in the near future. It would go a long way to securing regional stability.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Monday, 25 May 2009.	
European discourse. global financial meltd	we hear voices saying that a feeling of malaise is coming to dominate the hey claim that post-Lisbon constitutional uncertainty, coupled with the wn, has the effect of making the EU unable to absorb Serbia and the rests—that the process of enlargement is complete.
Γhe Government of S inish line—crisis or n	rbia doesn't subscribe to this fatalistic point of view. We will get to the crisis.
•	a will strive to further improve regional cooperation, and to fully on with that of the European Union.
	o reach out to nations beyond the EU and the Russian Federation—a enjoy a special relationship.
	arket to the world, we will come to forge new partnerships for prosperity. erge from the crisis even stronger.

adies and Gentlemen,
The pursuit of these policies is designed to maximize the benefits for our citizens and the region this time of crisis. This will enable us to keep doing what needs to be done to raise our lomestic standards of governance to the level of the European mainstream.
But it is essential that none of us loose sight of the overall strategic prize—a Europe truly who ree and at peace. When it comes to the Western Balkans, we need less talk, fewer promises, and more action.
Ooes anyone remember Joschka Fischer famously asking, "Quo vadis Europa?"

His answer was as right on the mark—back then, in May 2000, and even more so today. This is what he said: "Onwards to the completion of European integration. A step backwards," he added, "even just standing still in contentment with what has been achieved, would demand a fatal price of all EU member States and of all those that want to become members." And he concluded: "it would demand a fatal price above all of our people, for enlargement is a supreme national interest for all European states."
Well, let me echo his words to you today: EU membership is a 'supreme national interest' for my country—the strategic answer to the question, "quo vadis Serbia?"
Ladies and Gentlemen,
If you take away just one thing from my remarks to you today, let it be this: come what may, Serbia will remain on track.
We will not waiver. We will not be discouraged. We will be responsible, and we will stay the course.

Address to the 13th Annual Economist 0 Monday, 25 May 2009.	Government Roundtable on	Driving the New A	genda for Global R
Thank you very much.			