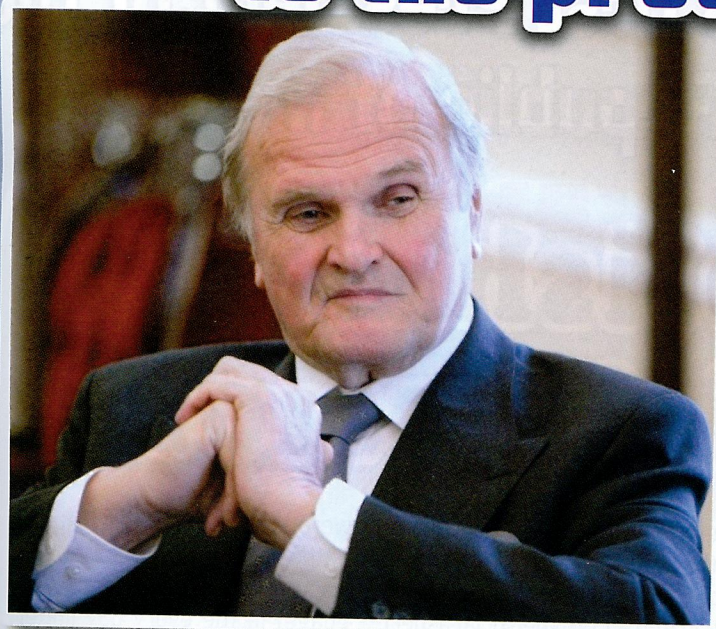


„Serbia highly appreciates the continuous support of Romania to the process of Serbia’s EU integration”



- states HE Branco Brancović, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia in Bucharest

- How do you assess the current state of economic relations between our countries?

- Romania, as the largest neighboring country, is a significant foreign trade partner to the Republic of Serbia. Bilateral trade is carried out according to the Interim Agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Serbia, of the other part.

- What are, in your opinion, the achievements, but also the unfulfillments in the economic relations between the two countries?

- According to the latest data obtained from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, in 2017, the total foreign trade in goods with Romania amounted to EUR 1.3 billion. In 2017, the total export was EUR 726 million, and on the list of the countries to which Serbia exports, Romania took the 5th position (4.8% in the total exports). In 2017, the total import amounted to EUR 570 million and Romania is ranked 9th in the total Serbian imports (2.9% in the total imports). In

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2017, a surplus was achieved in the foreign trade with Romania in the amount of EUR 156 million, whereas the coverage of import by export was 127%.

- Considering the fact that the two countries have close ties of collaboration, how do you see the future of relations between them?

- Serbia and Romania will celebrate next year 140 years of

the establishment of diplomatic relations. Since then, Serbia and Romania have done their best to improve their relations.

It is very well known that the political relations between our two countries are on a very high level. We expect to work together for further increase on the level of present relations, which will open avenues for even better economic relations.

The political relations between the Republic of Serbia and Romania are very diversified. The two neighbouring countries, in addition to a historical friendship have also never been in any kind of conflict or mutual hostility. This is also shown by the numerous official visits at the highest level (heads of state, prime ministers, ministers of foreign affairs and other high representatives of both countries).

The relations between Romania and the Republic of Serbia, as neighbouring countries are characterized by three basic elements: Romania’s support in the EU and in the Serbian integration process; it’s a stance towards the” Kosovo” and the promotion of economic cooperation.

Serbia highly appreciates the continuous support of Romania to the process of Serbia’s EU integration. The Romanian experience from its own integration path into the EU is very wide. In this regard, it offers full support to Serbia through study visits, workshops, training programmes, etc.

Respecting the basic principles of the international law and the UN Charter, Romania did not recognize the unilaterally declared independence of the Serbian autonomous province of Kosovo and Metohija. In this respect, Romania has consistently supported the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina in Brussels.

The political and economic cooperation represent two parts of the partnership already established on a bilateral, as well as multilateral level, which are not only complementary to each other, but also mutually reliant.

Since political relations between Serbia and Romania are on a very high level, it is realistic to expect further improvement of the economic cooperation of the two countries.