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KOSOVO SETS SEPTEMBER DATE FOR BORDER DEAL VOTE

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Kadri Veseli, speaker of the Kosovo parliament, announced that MPs will debate and vote on the controversial border demarcation agreement with Montenegro on September 1.

The assembly presidency meeting at which MPs discussed the date of the vote was briefly interrupted when Glauk Konjufca, an MP from the fiercely anti-agreement opposition Vetevendsje party, let off tear gas in the chamber.

Konjufca was detained while the session was later continued.

It is wrong to think anyone has benefited politically from the agreement on demarcation, Veseli told media after the session, adding that now familiar tear gas bombs would not stop the voting process.

Opposition MPs have repeatedly set off tear gas in the Kosovo parliament in recent months in attempts to scupper the border demarcation deal, which they say gives away too much land to Montenegro.

Vetevendosje MPs repeatedly detonated tear gas in the chamber to stop parliamentary sessions, from October 2015 until January this year.

Its MPs again tried to stop the border legislation from coming to parliament on Tuesday when tear gas was thrown in the meeting of the parliamentary commission for foreign affairs that was due to forward the law to the presidency of parliament.

The same day, an explosive device was found on the roof of a house belonging to Murat Meha, the head of the government's commission for demarcation.

Two MPs from Vetevendosje, Driton Çaushi and Konjufca, were arrested over the tear gas incident.

If the legislation is to come into force, parliament has to ratify the document with a two-thirds majority.

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