
SERBIAN LEADER HINTS THAT KOSOVO RECOGNITION POSSIBLE

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We must first find the compromise, we cannot recognise Kosovo without getting anything on the other side, Vučić told Italian ANSA news agency in an interview.

I am sure that with the help of our European friends and with the support of Russia, America, China and other countries, we can reach a solution, he said.

According to media in Serbia, Vučić's office later demanded that ANSA publish an amended version of the interview, in another indication of how sensitive the Kosovo issue is in the biggest Western Balkan country. Serbias Beta news agency said ANSA had indeed published a new version, which does not mention the recognition.

The interview, Beta said, now starts with the following: Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić said today that a compromise with Pristina would not represent a defeat, but a future for Serbia, and that his duty is to explain to Serbs the significance of such an agreement.

Kosovo unilaterally declared independence from Serbia a decade after the 1998-1999 bloody war between them that claimed around 13,000 lives.

However, Belgrade has fiercely rejected the move and still considers the territory as its southern province, which is written in the preamble of its constitution.

Serbia and Pristina have been under strong international pressure to reach a binding agreement on mutual relations if they want to progress on the path to European Union membership.

But the EU-mediated dialogue has hit a stalemate, particularly when Pristina in November slapped a 100% tariff on Serbian goods in response to Belgrades attempts to undermine its standing on the world stage.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/enlargement/news/serbian-leader-hints-kosovo-recognition-possible/>

Kaynak/Source: