



Content Committee: France

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1 Kosovo / Serbia Conflict Overview

2 France's Stance on the Kosovo Conflict

Having originally participated in the bombings of Yugoslavia during the armed conflict, France recognized Kosovo on the day following its declaration of independence in 2008. Since then, France has been actively involved in facilitating the process of conflict resolution. [1] Thus, the first UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Kosovo under the UN administration of Kosovar territory was Bernard Kouchner, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. France has also contributed 2 000 troops to the UN Interim Administrative Mission in Kosovo and the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Kosovo. Additionally, France is home to a Kosovar diaspora of 40 000. [2] [3]

Politically, France played a crucial role in the negotiations regarding Kosovo's international status and, in the EU, it was instrumental in orchestrating the implementation of EULEX, the largest civilian mission launched on Kosovo's territory. [3] The mission's aim consists in supporting certain Kosovo rule of law institutions, so as to enable their progression to increased effectiveness, sustainability and accountability. This objective is achieved through monitoring and carrying out limited executive functions, in the hopes of being able to hand over full administration responsibility in the near future. [4] Most recently, French President Emmanuel Macron, together with his German counterpart, Angela Merkel, organized a video summit, seeking to restart dialogue in the Kosovo-Serbia negotiations. [5]

France has also been actively involved in Kosovar rebuilding projects and has significant commercial ties to Kosovo, exporting equipment and transport material for a yearly total of 10 million euros. Several important French business have presences in Kosovo. Furthermore, France is involved in extensive cooperation with Kosovo in institutional and academic fields, and in the realms of justice and archaeology. [1]

Interestingly, France's political relations with Serbia, though complicated by France's recognition of Kosovo, have remained positive and productive. Furthermore, the volume of trade between the two countries has been increasing, with over 100 French companies maintaining presences in Serbia. France has been actively supporting Serbia in European integration and administrative reform, while also providing technical assistance with regards to environmental protection and defense. There is also strong security cooperation between the two countries, especially in terms of policing, judicial investigations, and combatting trafficking. [6]

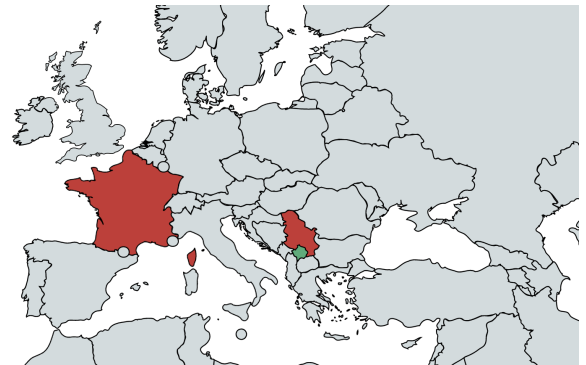


Fig. 1: The relative positions of Serbia and France (in red). Kosovo is shown in green.

3 Recent Developments

4 References

- 1 France Diplomacy - 'Kosovo' <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/kosovo/>
- 2 France Diplomatie - 'Kosovo, Relations Bilaterales' <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/kosovo/relations-bilaterales/>
- 3 Wikipedia - 'France-Kosovo Relations' https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France%E2%80%93Kosovo_relations
- 4 Wikipedia - 'European Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo' https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union_Rule_of_Law_Mission_in_Kosovo
- 5 Euractiv - 'France, Germany Seek to Unfreeze Kosovo - Serbia talks' <https://www.euractiv.com/section/enlargement/news/france-germany-seek-to-unfreeze-stalled-kosovo-serbia-talks/>
- 6 France Diplomacy - 'France-Serbia Relations' <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/serbia/>