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An analysis of Serbia's alignment with the European Union's foreign policy declarations and measures in 2018:

SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW

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An analysis of Serbia's alignment with the European Union's foreign policy declarations and measures in 2018 – semi-annual report¹

From January 1 until June 30, 2018, the European Union issued a total of 32 declarations urging candidate and potential candidate countries, as well as states belonging to the European Economic Area and Eastern Partnership, to align themselves with these documents. During that period, Serbia complied only with only 18 declarations, i.e. 44%. Having in mind that the percentage for the whole 2017 was 46% and for the first half of 2017 close to 69%, there is a clear tendency of dropping with compliance.

Of the 18 declarations Serbia failed to align itself with, six pertain to the situation in Ukraine, in the context of Russia's involvement in various aspects of the crisis there, four pertain to the war in Syria, three to the crisis in Venezuela, two are about the Democratic Republic of Congo and one each regarding Iran, Myanmar (Burma) and Zimbabwe.

In regard to foreign policy declarations concerning the situation in Ukraine that Serbia failed to align itself with, four involved the extension of the already imposed restrictive measures against certain entities and individuals from Russia and Ukraine. One refers to the findings of the Joint Investigation Team on the collapse of the Malaysian MH17 aircraft, while the last one is dedicated to the anniversary of the Crimean annexation in which Russian moves are condemned, including the militarization of this peninsula, while a special accent is placed on the violation of human rights of the Crimean Tatars.

Regarding the EU's declaration of Syria with which Serbia did not align, one concerns an attack on Eastern Ghouta, an area near Damascus, which has been under siege by regular Syrian forces since 2013; this declaration calls for the implementation of a 30- daily humanitarian truce. Although Russia was not explicitly mentioned in this declaration, the media reporting from the Syrian conflict explicitly made reference about the Russian support for the Syrian forces. The other two declarations on Syria deal with the use of chemical weapons by the regular Syrian forces, and the Council explicitly invites countries that have influence over Syria, including Russia and Iran, to exert pressure on Syria to fulfill its obligations as a member of the Chemical Weapons Convention. It should also be noted that in addition to these three, Serbia complied with EU's further three declarations on Syria, all insisting on the extension of restrictive measures against individuals and entities in that country

In general, thus, Serbia continues to consistently non-align itself with declarations involving Russia. Still, Serbia's two major political goals – European integration, and preservation of its sovereignty over Kosovo – are rather incongruent, since for the latter Serbia needs support from

1) The analysis covers all EU foreign policy declarations seeking the alignment of third countries, made publicly available on EU Council's webpage consilium.europa.eu.

Russia, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. In other words, although it is incompatible with the framework of Chapter 31 – the Common, Foreign Security and Defense policy – Serbia continues to maintain and, in some segments even expand, its relations with Moscow.

Regarding non-compliance with DR Congo declarations, the most likely explanation for it is the fact that two years earlier this country voted against Kosovo's admission to UNESCO, and this was an expression of solidarity and gratitude. During 2017 and 2016, Serbia also did not comply with the declarations devoted to this country. Supporting Serbia's position over Kosovo is also likely to be associated with non-compliance with foreign policy declarations on Venezuela too, a country that is currently undergoing one of the most dramatic economic and political crises in its existence.

After a long period of time, Serbia did not comply with any declaration related on Iran, regarding the extension of restrictive measures. The situation was similar in 2014 when Serbia did not comply with the declaration on Zimbabwe. It can also be assumed that the reason for such moves is the support of Iran and Zimbabwe to the foreign policy position of Serbia over Kosovo, and their voting/support in UNESCO.

By accepting the negotiation framework in the EU accession talks, and thus Chapter 35's content, Serbia has pledged to normalize its relations with Pristina, the final result of which should eventually be the conclusion of a legally binding agreement on such an outcome. This agreement should resolve the challenges Serbia is facing and open the path towards the EU.

Once again Serbia did not align with the declaration on Myanmar (Burma). The declaration refers to the extension of restrictive measures, including the restriction of arms exports and the prohibition of military co-operation, and in relation to the situation in the State of Rakhin, involving the violence against members of the Rohingya Muslim minority which began during the government's military intervention in August 2017. As in the previous year the reason why Serbia decided to avoid complying with this declaration may lie in Russia's, China's, and some other countries' show of support for the Myanmar regime, culminating at the end of 2017 in open opposition to a U.N. General Assembly's Resolution on the Rohingya, initiated by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Alignment of other states with the European Union's foreign policy declarations and measures in the first half of 2018

In relation to Albania, Montenegro and Macedonia, and even Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia has a dramatically lower degree of alignment with foreign policy declarations and EU measures. The same goes for the countries of the European Economic Area - Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Of the Eastern Partnership countries, Moldova and Georgia have a higher degree of compliance, while Ukraine has also reduced the percentage of compliance in relation to the first half of the previous year.

State	Alignment Percentage
Serbia	43,75%
Macedonia	87,50%
Montenegro	100%
Iceland	87.50%
Albania	100%
Bosnia and Hercegovina	62,50%
Turkey	3,13%
Lichtenstein	81,25%
Norway	90,63%
Moldova	71,88%
Armenia	34,38%
Georgia	50%
Ukraine	40,63%
Azerbaijan	0%

ANEX

List of EU's foreign policy declarations in 2018

Alignment with the EU's foreign policy declarations and measures																
No	Name of declaration	Date	Ser.	Mac.	Mont.	Iccl.	Alb.	BiH	Lich.	Nor.	Mold.	Arm.	Geor.	Ukra.	Azer.	Turkey
1	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain third countries concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo	January 9, 2018	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
2	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain third countries concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	January 12, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
3	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the latest developments in Venezuela	January 26, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
4	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain countries concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine	January 31, 2018	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No

11	Declaration by the High Representative, on behalf of the EU on the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol	March 16, 2018	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
12	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain countries concerning restrictive measures against Zimbabwe	March 16, 2018	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
13	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	March 21, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
14	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the alignment of certain third countries concerning restrictive measures against Belarus	March 22, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
15	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain countries with Council Implementing Decision concerning restrictive measures against Syria	March 26, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
16	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain third countries concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine	March 26, 2018	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

17	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain third countries concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine	March 26, 2018	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
18	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on strikes in Syria	April 14, 2018	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
19	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the situation in Venezuela	April 19, 2018	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
20	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain third countries concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Egypt	April 19, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
21	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain third countries concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya	April 19, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
22	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the alignment of certain third countries concerning restrictive measures against Syria	April 19, 2018	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No

23	Declaration by the High Representative, Federica Mogherini on behalf of the EU on the occasion of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia	May 16, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	
24	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain third countries concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo	May 18, 2018	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
25	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain third countries concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	May 18, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
26	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain third countries concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Iran	May 18, 2018	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
27	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the presidential and regional elections in Venezuela	May 22, 2018	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
28	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain countries concerning restrictive measures against Myanmar/Burma	May 24, 2018	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

29	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the findings of the Joint Investigation Team on the downing of flight MH17	May 25, 2018	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
30	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain countries with Council Decision concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	June 12, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
31	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain countries concerning restrictive measures against Syria	June 12, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
32	Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain countries concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine	June 12, 2018	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
No		date	Ser.	Mac.	Mont.	Icel.	Alb.	BiH	Lich.	Nor.	Mold.	Arm.	Geor.	Ukra.	Azer.	Turkey		
			14	28	32	28	32	20	26	29	23	11	16	13	0	1		
			18	4	0	4	0	12	6	3	9	21	16	19	32	31		
		Alignment Percentage	43,75	87,50	100	87,50	100	62,50	81,25	90,63	71,88	34,38	50	40,63	0	3,13		

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