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News story, 06.10.2000

Published during: Stoltenberg's 1st Government

Publisher: The Office of the Prime Minister

Status: **Archived**

Prime Minister Jens Stoltenbergs letter to H.E. President-elect Vojislav Koštunica

Oslo, 6 October

Dear President-elect Koštunica,

I am writing to congratulate you and the Serbian people on your historic election as president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Your election victory marks the beginning of a new era for your country. Despite all the obstacles, you and your colleagues in the Democratic Opposition of Serbia have conducted an election campaign that has been rewarded with the overwhelming support of the Serbian people. The people of Serbia have voted for democracy, economic prosperity and cooperation with Europe and the international community.

I can assure you that the people and government of Norway are eager to re-vitalise bilateral relations with Yugoslavia on all levels; economic, political and social. Your election victory makes this possible.

Yugoslavia can now find its rightful place in European cooperation. Norway stands ready to play its part in furthering the inclusion of Yugoslavia in political and economic cooperation structures. The issue of Yugoslavia's full participation in the United Nations and the OSCE must be resolved.

In the short term, I believe that your country should be admitted as soon as possible as a participant in the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe. We are now taking steps in pursuit of this aim. Norway is furthermore committed to providing significant economic support for the economic transformation and re-construction of Yugoslavia. We will continue to press for a donors' conference for Yugoslavia. And finally, sanctions should now be lifted as soon as possible. Norway is already taking the necessary steps toward this end.

In closing, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend an invitation for you to visit Norway at your earliest convenience.

I wish you and the people of Yugoslavia every success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Jens Stoltenberg