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July 8, 2008

New Serbian government takes oath to preserve Kosovo within Serbia

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The new Serbian government of Prime minister Mirko Cvetkovic, elected late on Monday by the parliament, took the oath of preserving Kosovo within Serbia.

After the election, the newly-appointed prime minister and members of his cabinet were sworn in before the parliament.

The government is made of the coalition led by the Democratic Party (DS) of President Boris Tadic, the coalition led by the Socialist Party (SPS) of new Deputy Prime Minister Ivica Dacic, as well as the parties representing minorities.

The oath the ministers took reads as follows: "I swear my loyalty to the Republic of Serbia, and on my honor, I pledge to respect the Constitution and the law, that I will carry out my duty as a member of the government conscientiously, responsibly and devotedly, and I will be dedicated to preserving Kosovo and Metohia within the Republic of Serbia."

The main goals of the government are European integration, defence of Kosovo through diplomatic and political means, boosting of economy, strengthening of and social responsibility, intensification of the fight against corruption and crime and observance of international obligations.

Serbia's new minister for Kosovo is Goran Bogdanovic, a Kosovo Serb and member of the Democratic Party (DS).

Bogdanovic was member of Serbia's negotiations team during the status talks.