

Restructuring of the Influences in the Western Balkans

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It is not easy to update and process all the happenings across the world – as the result of the global repositioning of the power – since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. Wherever one could look – ongoing processes are not promising at all – Gaza Strip, Syria, Far East, Africa...

Situation is not much better even in Europe, where European Union is struggling to confirm itself as the significant and decisive player – supporting Ukraine against Russia. In that spirit, the announced Turkish construction of new ammunition factory in "Kosovo" is just another piece in the puzzle of restructuring of the influences in the Western Balkans.

Security and peace are the main preconditions of wellbeing and progress. Unfortunately, the world is witnessing total lack of the awareness how important security and peace really are. Many leaders across the world – including the leaders of the most powerful countries – are trying to impose certain "solutions" for old and unsolved issues, while new issues are emerging constantly. Whatever it is happening it is simply explained as "securing of democracy and human rights" or "protection of the international law" while in the same time United Nations are experiencing rising diminishing of influence and reputation that were carefully built during decades after the Second World War.

Therefore, emerging of different approaches how to secure the peace and stability is no surprise – having on mind above mentioned – especially when those approaches include negligence of the international law and previously accepted obligations.

The most recent – and disturbing in the same time – Turkish activities in the so called "Kosovo" are nothing else than the confirmation that in this moment there are no boundaries and restraints for those who would like to achieve certain influence in the projected zones of interest.

Thousands of Turkish drones were delivered¹ to security forces in Pristina at the beginning of October 2025 – against the UN Resolution 1244 that requires demilitarization instead of arming². Furthermore, mentioned act was just the continuation of the similar actions that are threatening the peace and stability in the region.³

In the same time, Serbia has been constantly accused (and still is) as the main threat to stability in the Western Balkans, without any logical and justified explanation. The last accusations came during the 10019th Meeting of the UN Security Council, held on 21 October 2025, where Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz of "Kosovo" warned that Serbia is *"a real threat to the region"*, having even more the liberty to declare in characteristic and quite non-diplomatic manner that *"Serbia is not a normal European country"*.⁴

Finally – as "the cherry on the top of the cake" – it was confirmed from Pristina that thousands of Turkish-made *Skydagger* drones had arrived in Pristina under a contract signed with *Baykar*, a defense contractor owned by Erdogan's son-in-law Selcuk Bayraktar.⁵ Turkish officials in Ankara stressed that defense exports to the Balkans are legitimate commercial transactions carried out under international law, saying in the same time that *"Serbia has exported weapons and ammunition to the Greek Cypriot administration, which Turkey does not recognize as the*

¹ <https://nordicmonitor.com/2025/10/erdogans-family-linked-drone-exports-stir-tensions-with-serbia/>

² <https://unmik.unmissions.org/united-nations-resolution-1244>

³ On 18 March 2025, Ministers of Defense from Albania, Croatia, and so called "Kosovo" gathered and signed a trilateral security and defense agreement in Tirana (Albania) that comprised these projected goals: (1) Development of defense technologies and infrastructure, (2) Interoperability through education and coordinated training, (3) Joint procurement, (4) Combatting hybrid threats (cyber and disinformation), (5) Promotion of Euro-Atlantic integration of the so called "Kosovo", including NATO membership.

⁴ <https://press.un.org/en/2025/sc16196.doc.htm>

⁵ <https://nordicmonitor.com/2025/10/erdogans-family-linked-drone-exports-stir-tensions-with-serbia/>

Republic of Cyprus", trying to explain that "the same standard should apply to Turkey's sales in the region".

An objective observer should notice that Serbia is trying to maintain friendly relationship with all countries in the world following its neutral policy of non-aligning with the hegemonic powers and respecting the basic rights given by the international law, even if it was (and is) extremely sensitive in current geopolitical circumstances. Respecting this, it could be seen during the visit of the Turkish president to Belgrade (in October 2024) that Turkey was one of the best examples how Serbia treated states worldwide – with respect and honor only.⁶

However, in described situation that includes previously mentioned new developments, Serbia is not in the position to implement even the well-known rule "keep your friends close and your enemies even closer". Namely, it is more than obvious that Recep Tayyip Erdoğan would like to empower his self-declared role of "savior and protector" in the zones of interest that strangely coincides with the territory of the former Ottoman Empire.

Also, it has become pretty obvious that the only necessary things in current international affairs are military might and geopolitical "weight" in "new world arena".

Instead of conclusion, it can be stated that it is obvious the damage has been done in the Western Balkans (for now) and it is yet to be seen what will happen in the future – in projected "Blue Homeland" and other Erdogan's subjects of expectations and aspirations in closer or more distant Turkish neighborhood.

Also, one is definitely certain: all "strongmen" of the world will try to imitate the strongest one – all in efforts to shape their environment according to their own ideas and ambitions and with no regard what so ever to international law and good political practice.

Therefore, it could be proven *"in vivo"* that these practices inevitable would lead to greater and more dangerous confrontations and conflicts, threatening to be spread like a disease. After all – history witnessed at least two such great mistakes that brought misery and suffering to the world that have never been seen before. It would be absolutely dangerous, irresponsible and hazardous to try something similar for the third time.

⁶ <https://connectingregion.com/news/erdogan-visits-serbia-hails-golden-era-of-bilateral-relations/>