



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MIROSLAVA BEHAM,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SERBIA,  
ON THE ARREST OF RADOVAN KARADZIC,  
AT THE 723<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF  
THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 July 2008

Mr. Chairman,

At the last meeting of the Permanent Council we outlined the key elements that constitute the programme of Serbia's new government and that are, among others: the commitment to an European future of Serbia; the rejection of the independence of Kosovo; and the respect of international law. We stressed, in this context, the preparedness of Serbia to cooperate with the ICTY.

The new government was established only two weeks ago, and it did not take long for the domestic and international public to get the proof that Serbia's intentions are very serious. On 21 July the ICTY indictee Radovan Karadzic was located and arrested in a raid carried out by Serbian security forces and was - in compliance with the Law on cooperation with the ICTY - taken to an investigative judge of the Belgrade War Crimes Chamber, who interrogated him and adopted a decision on the detention of Karadzic as well as a decision on the fulfillment of the preconditions for Karadzic's extradition to the ICTY.

On the occasion of Karadzic's arrest Serbian Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic evaluated that fulfilling obligations towards the ICTY means that Serbia respects her own laws as well as international law. He underlined that, if we all abide by the principles of international law, we will be able to reach reconciliation in the region and create conditions for a better life.

Prime Minister Cvetkovic also called on the ICTY indictees still at large to turn themselves in.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the arrest of Karadzic revealed charges, that there is no political will in our country to cooperate with the ICTY, as unsustainable. Serbia has so far extradited 44 indictees to the Hague Tribunal, among them the complete former Serbian civilian and military leadership, and Karadzic will be the 45<sup>th</sup>.

Serbia is willing to cooperate, but Serbia expects also greater responsibility in the processing and punishing of crimes perpetrated by other former parties to the conflicts. And - our commitment to international law is firm both with respect to our cooperation with the ICTY *and* the defence of Serbia's sovereignty and territorial integrity as regards Kosovo.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman