



Tribute to an Exceptional Diplomat, Colleague and Friend

Ambassador Branislav Milinkovic

It is with profound grief and shock that we all have received the sad news of the tragic death of our respected colleague and friend, Ambassador Branislav Milinkovic, on December 4th 2012.

Our thoughts, sympathy and prayers go to his family and to all the ones who were close to Ambassador Milinkovic, along with our sincere condolences.

For all the colleagues in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), and indeed for all those with whom he interacted at NATO headquarters or in the Brussels diplomatic community, Ambassador Milinkovic had gained the reputation of an exceptional diplomat, remarkable intellectual and noble human being.

Ambassador Milinkovic served his country, Serbia, and its relationship with NATO and all partners with distinction, professionalism and strong personal engagement. With his particular intellectual strength, analytical skills, strength of character and tactful approach, he was able to reflect, in his bilateral dialogues with colleagues or in formal interventions, both the complex historic, political and strategic context that defines his country's objectives and policies and a forward looking constructive and cooperative approach in developing the NATO-Serbian partnership and enhancing security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.

As the chairman of the South East Europe Security Cooperation Steering Group (SEEGROUP) in the last year, his ambition was to make the most of the opportunity for dialogue and cooperation that such an informal group, with the focus on this region of key relevance for his country, can offer. And he succeeded in doing this with hard work, tact, imagination and efficiency.

He took advantage of his diplomatic and human skills in serving his country, its relationship with NATO and partners on every occasion, from formal meetings, numerous office calls with colleagues or NATO officials, various diplomatic events, and even on the tennis court at the NATO staff center, where he again earned respect from all those who engaged with him (sometimes along with his 17 years son) in sports-diplomacy.

Last but by no means least, Branislav Milinkovic was a charismatic personality and special human being. He had that valuable talent of making everyone keep an open door and an open mind in the interaction with him. He was always thoughtful with colleagues in the EAPC as well as among his dedicated staff in the Serbian delegation and he was constantly and delicately expressing in private dialogues his sentiments of pride, care and love for his family.

He will be respectfully remembered for his special personality, for what he stood for and achieved in his many years here in Brussels, and before that in Vienna and Belgrade. He will be greatly missed by the larger NATO and Euro-Atlantic family, and indeed by all those who knew and highly appreciated him.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen



H.E. Anders Fogh Rasmussen
NATO Secretary General
Chairman of the North Atlantic Council and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council

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* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.