

Russia not getting ready to recognize Kosovo

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MOSCOW, February 20 (RIA Novosti) – Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov dismissed on Friday a claim by Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci that Moscow was getting ready to recognize the province as an independent state.

In an interview with the Serbian newspaper Politika on Thursday, a year and two days after Kosovo's declaration of unilateral independence, Thaci said Russia had positively assessed the current situation in the province and would soon recognize its sovereignty.

"I think Mr. Thaci is indulging in wishful thinking ... Mr. Thaci is the last person to make statements on behalf of the Russian Federation," Lavrov told a Moscow news conference following talks with his Serbian counterpart Vuk Jeremic.

Lavrov said Russia's position on Kosovo remained unchanged. Moscow supports Belgrade's view that Kosovo is an indivisible part of Serbia.

"I reiterated it today, and there can be no ambiguity here," Lavrov said.

The Maldives became the 55th country to recognize Kosovo as an independent state on Thursday.

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