

The official visit of Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić to Vienna was greatly reminiscent of all media, and the most influential Vienna daily Kronen Zeitung also dealt with the question of whether the EU was losing the race for Serbia and the region, as China progressed well with its strategy.

“The EU does not know too much about what it does, and China knows it well and operates sustainably. China’s strategists are on their way to Europe - from the east across the new Silk Road and from the south across Greece to Serbia. Piraeus Port has been leased by Chinese companies and since then it has started to work again. The next is the port in Thessaloniki.” the paper said, adding that Chinese President Xi Jinping called Greece “a door to Europe”.

Kronen Zeitung reminds that this is happening with the construction of infrastructure in the direction of Belgrade and then Budapest, and also behind the plan to build a new port on the Danube in Belgrade are also Chinese investors.

Beijing does not complain about money regarding the big masterplan to gain new markets, adds the paper, pointing out that China is the fourth trading partner of Serbia today.

In this connection, the President of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Marko Čadež, said that there is no more dynamic and sustainable planning nation than China today.

“Our European partners must make sure they do not oversleep their chances.” - he warned. The EU is considering and considering how to confront China’s penetration into the Balkans. So far, 12 out of 35 chapters have been opened in numerous accession negotiations with Serbia, two of which are closed, reminds the Vienna newspaper.

“It’s up to Belgrade,” they say from Brussels, “It’s up to the EU,” they say from Belgrade.” - the daily reported, adding that Austrian President Aleksander van der Belen assessed that Serbia is on the right path.

The paper, however, indicates that there are several obstacles on Serbia’s EU path, such as the “EU logical requirement” that Serbia must finally separate itself from its lost province of Kosovo.

Recognition of independence for Serbia is not considered in due time and in Belgrade they indicate that five EU member states have not recognized Kosovo, adds Kronen Zeitung.

The paper points out that Vučić announced a plan he wants to regulate a joint life with Kosovo, but that should be decided on a referendum.

In an interview with the Vienna daily newspaper, Vučić said that Serbia wants to be a peacemaker in the Balkans.

“The question is: is China or the EU? Russia is no alternative to Serbia, although there is an emotional connection with the Orthodox brothers. The Russian economy has too little to

offer.” - the diary estimates.

“We want to play in the first league,” said the new generation in Serbia, reports Kronen Zeitung, adding that in Serbia there is a saying: “The heart is for the brothers from the East, but the wallet is dragging towards the West”.