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## Work on alignment with Russia sanctions underway with Serbia - EU diplomat

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BRUSSELS - EU FMs will hold a debate on the Western Balkans on May 16 to assess the impact of the Ukraine war on the region and ways it can boost its economic resilience, security and diplomacy, as well as its alignment with EU positions, decisions and sanctions on Russia.

In a statement to Tanjug, a high-ranking EU diplomat who wished to remain anonymous said all Western Balkan partners were "on the EU's side" and had "rejected the Russian aggression."

He said work on full alignment with the EU sanctions was underway with Serbia as a "very close partner" and that the alignment was only a "matter of time."

"Serbia is an EU membership candidate and a very close partner of ours. It has serious problems when it comes to joining our sanctions. We are working with Serbia and other partners around the world, we are listening to their problems and trying to solve them.

Serbia is a country that joined us in the UN vote and aligned with all our statements about the Russian aggression, and the only thing they have not done is implement our sanctions," the diplomat said, underlining that Serbia was in no way contributing to bypassing of the EU sanctions on Russia.

The Brussels meeting of the FMs of the EU 27 will also be attended by Western Balkan FMs.

Photo: Tanjug, file

