Minister Dacic: Aircraft to repatriate Serbian citizens stranded in all corners of the world arranged by state authorities virtually every day

Friday, 10 April 2020.

In a statement for RTS, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dacic said this evening that the most requests for return to Serbia were lodged by our nationals in Germany - around 1500, as well as the United States - around 700.

Minister Dacic underlined that state authorities so far ensured return to Serbia to students, persons in need of medical care, those who had lost their jobs abroad, etc.

"We have just secured return from Ukraine to a child and a father, who was there to receive medical treatment. We did the same with persons receiving assisted fertility treatments and those suffering serious medical conditions.

It is likely that there are more cases like this. We are able to help, guaranteeing that the country will receive all these people."

The Serbian Foreign Minister said that the country would also help the 14 Serbian citizens who were in India for education purposes, as much as it could. He said that they were supposed to maintain constant contact with the Embassy there, and that our authorities would assist them every way they could, but that it was not realistic to expect a plane to take off to India.

"It is unrealistic to expect that a plane would depart from Serbia to India. As I said, only one transcontinental flight has been arranged so far for passengers at remote locations, the one to Washington, D.C.. To put it simply, there are no such capacities at our disposal. Another option is potential flights to be arranged by the EU and exploring the possibility of boarding them on one of those flights, which has been the case earlier", Minister Dacic added.

Minister Dacic said that Serbia also arranged two flights to Malta, largely repatriating our nationals who had lost their jobs there, but that there were more of them who wished to return to Serbia.

"Most requests have been recorded in Germany - 1500, and some 700 in the United States. We are trying to have the people able to use their own means of transport begin to gradually return to the country. They keep arriving from Slovenia on a daily basis", Dacic said.
The Minister announced that the next humanitarian flight was scheduled for tomorrow to Vienna, and another to Dubai on Sunday.