

around 25 percent, is supposed to climb in coming months.

Only a through review and an increase in the present western economic and financial aid can brake Serbia's backward slide. Especially now, in the run-up to the presidential elections, Brussels and Western capitals have to signal to Serbs that broad-based support for ultra-nationalist forces like the SRS undermine any chance of Western financial aid for the country. This message has to be addressed directly to Prime Minister Koštunica, who currently shoulders the onus of blame for the present state of affairs in Serbia.

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