

**BACK ON THE AGENDA:**  
**EU ENLARGEMENT  
AND WESTERN BALKANS**

**11 APRIL 2018**

**10.00 - 12.00**  
**Charlemagne building, Mansholt room,**  
**Rue de la Loi 170, Brussels**



The Western Balkan has returned to the agenda of the European Union. However, getting closer to the EU also brings greater responsibility. The European Commission's motto 'exporting stability, rather than importing instability' must remain a strong pull factor, since it carries the idea of strengthening WB democracies and finally implementing economic and social reforms, which would have tangible results for citizens. The EU-WB enlargement strategy, numerous top-level visits by EU representatives, including a wide range of different regional initiatives, are charting the EU's path ahead. Nevertheless, it is the empowered civil society of the Western Balkans that are best at voicing their ideas and perspectives. And which part of society is more relevant for outlining the prospects for an (EU) future than the young generation?

One question inevitably arises: What do the youth of the Western Balkans have to say? An education system that is incompatible with the labour market, high youth unemployment, a massive brain-drain, anomalies of the state-building process and the slow post-conflict reconciliation process are only some of the everyday concerns plaguing young people in the region. Comprehensive structural reforms, the openness and inclusiveness of public institutions, more scholarships, better education and job opportunities, visa-free regime for the entire region and a chance not only to speak but also to be heard seem to be positive solutions to these challenges. The youngsters of the Western Balkans might see EU membership as the light at the end of the tunnel, but they are also fully aware that their respective governments need to do their part of the job first.

In light of all this, the Centre for European Perspective is opening the floor to the civil society of the Western Balkans, giving them a chance to discuss their concerns, challenges, ideas and prospects with EU representatives, policy makers and experts. You are cordially invited to take part in a public discussion on the future of the Western Balkans' biggest asset, its youth, in the heart of the EU, in Brussels.

## **Welcome Address**

*Dr Gorazd Justinek, Centre for European Perspective*

## **Keynote Speaker: "Implementation of the Western Balkan Strategy"**

*Mr Maciej Popowski, Deputy Director-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission*

## **Public Debate**

### **Format Description**

*Moderator introduces the topic. The floor is given to each of the topic groups: democratization, social affairs, participation and reconciliation. Each group has to present the overview of the topic, burning issues, examples of good practices and policy recommendations in 5 minutes. The floor is given to the stakeholders' representatives who respond to the presentation. The group responds and poses additional questions to the stakeholders' representatives. Each topic is given 20 minutes.*

**Discussion is held under the Chatham House Rules.**

### **Stakeholders' representatives**

*Mr Molnár Balázs, Deputy State Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary*

*Mr Peter Grk, National Coordinator for the Western Balkans, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia*

*Mr György Schöpflin, Member of the European Parliament*

*Ms Marlène Bartes, European Commission – Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture*

*Mr Albert Sesé Ballart, European Commission – Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture*

### **Young representatives from Western Balkans**

*Alba Brojka, Albania*

*Aleksandra Kapetanović, Serbia*

*Emina Balota, Montenegro*

*Besnik Avdiaj, Kosovo\**

*Lolita Hasani, Macedonia*

*Mak Selimović, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

### **Think tank representatives from Western Balkans**

*Ardian Hackaj, Cooperation & Development Institute, Albania*

*Jan Zlatan Kulenović, Social Innovation Incubator MUNJA, BiH*

*Zoran Nechev, Institute for Democracy „Societas Civilis“, Macedonia*

*Jovana Marović, Politkon Network, Montenegro*

*Donika Emiri, Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS), Kosovo\**

*Ana Marjanović Rudan, Western Balkans 6 Advocacy Group, Praxis Development Consulting Office, Serbia*

*Dafina Peci, Albanian National Youth Congress, Western Balkans Youth Cooperation Platform, Albania*

*Dušan Pjevočić, European Policy Centre – CEP, Serbia*

**Moderated by Zoran Nechev, Institute for Democracy „Societas Civilis“, Macedonia**

### **Keynote listener's response**

*Ms Tanja Fajon, Member of European Parliament*

\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.