



International Conference

European integration and regional cooperation in the Western Balkans

27th April 2015
10.00 – 17.30

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nr. 6, “Gjergj Fishta” Blvd., Tirana

10.00 – 10.30 Opening and keynote address

Peter JANKOWITSCH, Secretary General, Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Vienna

Odeta BARBULLUSHI, Deputy Minister of Albania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tirana

Johannes HAHN, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, EU Commission, Brussels (video message)

10.30 – 11.45 The EU's enlargement policy in the Western Balkans: between determination and uncertainties

Chair: **Hannes SWOBODA**, former Member of the European Parliament, Vienna

Enver HOXHAI, Chairperson of Kosovo Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament of Kosovo, Prishtina
“EU Enlargement: making the most of the next five years”

Wolfgang PETRITSCH, President of the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation, Vienna
“The Western Balkans between Russia's revisionism and the Middle Eastern meltdown. Where is the EU?”

Alexis VLAHAS, Institute for Political Studies, University of Strasbourg
"Getting ready for 2020, 2025 or 2030? Conditions for a speedy accession to the EU"

Kristof BENDER, Deputy Chairman, European Stability Initiative, Vienna
“Can the EU accession process work in the Western Balkans?”

Jean-Arnault DÉRENS, Editor in Chief, Courrier des Balkans
“Five years of waiting and the desert of "transition": a godsend for authoritarian tendencies”

11.45 – 12.15 Discussion

12.15 – 13.15 Lunch

13.15 – 14.30 The political and economic dimensions of regional cooperation in the Western Balkans

Chair: **Teuta ARIFI**, Mayor of the Municipality of Tetovo

Mario HOLZNER, Deputy Director and Research Economist, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW), Vienna
“Economic development and infrastructure investment in the Western Balkans”

Peter GRK, Western Balkans Coordinator, Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ljubljana
“Enhancing enlargement process through connectivity and concrete infrastructural projects”

Paskal MILO, former Foreign Minister of Albania, Tirana
"From reconciliation to cooperation- the common challenge of the Western Balkans”

Florian RAUNIG, Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania, Tirana
“Integration between Consensus and Compromise. Framing South East European integration”

Renaud DORLHIAC, Associate Member, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHSS), Paris
“Regional cooperation in the Albanian space: from a national to a European project”

14.30 – 15.00 Discussion

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee Break

15.15 – 17.15 Challenges ahead in the framework of the Berlin process

Chair: **Dominique DAVID**, Executive Vice President, French Institute for International Relations (IFRI), Paris

Romana VLAHUTIN, Head of the Delegation to the European Union to Tirana
“tba”

Hannes SWOBODA, former Member of the European Parliament, Vienna
“Chances and obstacles on the way towards EU integration”

Aleksandar PEJOVIĆ, Chief Negotiator for negotiations over Montenegro’s accession to the EU,
Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Podgorica
“Montenegrin perspective on the Berlin Process”

Johann SATTLER, Head of the Western Balkans’ Unit, Austrian Ministry for European and
International Affairs, Vienna
“Closing the Balkans Gap – the Berlin process as additional impetus for the EU accession process of
the Western Balkans”

Florent MARCIACQ, Associate researcher, in residence at the OSCE, Chair of research at the
Parliament of Luxembourg and Austro-French Centre for the Rapprochement in Europe
“What response to the withering of democracy in the Western Balkans?”

17.15 – 17.45 **Conclusion**

Arben AHMETAJ, Albanian Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Entrepreneurship, Tirana