



Roundtable and Debate

"Post Paris, Post Brexit - Perspectives for the Western Balkans"

Western Balkans Summit Series - Paris and the way ahead

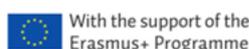
Skopje, 24 November 2016, 15h30-17h30
Venue: Bushi Resort (Restaurant), Kjurhiska 21

On 4 July 2016 the French President François Hollande hosted a summit on the Western Balkans in Paris. It was the third of its kind after the launch of the “Berlin process”. Back in August 2014, in the wake of the centenary of First World War, the German Chancellor Angela Merkel initiated an intergovernmental process with the countries of the Western Balkans. Its aim has been to improve their cooperation, put “fundamentals first” and thereby reinvigorate the European integration of the region. The first conference in Berlin was followed by a second one in Vienna in 2015. The conference in Paris marked already the middle of the process as it was conceptualized to conclude in 2018, at the occasion of the centenary of the end of the First World War. The aftermath of the Paris conference hence offers an ideal opportunity for review and a discussion of the way ahead, in view of the conference planned for summer 2017 in Italy upon invitation by Prime Minister Renzi.

The Skopje roundtable and debate takes places as follow-on to the Reflection Forum “*The Western Balkans in the European Union: new perspectives on integration?*” organized by CIFE, the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI) and CFA/ÖFZ in Paris on 30-31 May 2016 and the “*Civil Society Forum Paris of the Western Balkans Summit Series*” coordinated by the European Fund for the Balkans, ERSTE Foundation and others which took place in Paris on 3-4 July 2016. The roundtable, organised in the aftermath of the “*Rencontre participative des jeunes macédoniens*” and on the eve of the “*Civil Society Forum Skopje*”, will provide a forum for information exchange and reflection on the achievements of the process so far and help to generate fresh contributions for the way ahead. Similar roundtables have been, or will be, organised in all Western Balkan countries until the second edition of the Reflection Forum on the Western Balkans takes place in Italy, next year.



This roundtable and debate is organized by Cooperation and Development Institute and CIFE in cooperation with CFA / ÖFZ, IAI and the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisors Group (BiEPAG), with the support of the German Foreign Office / Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and Erasmus+.



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This communication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Programme

15h30 *Welcome and opening*

15h45 *Roundtable*

Review of Paris Western Balkans Summit and the way ahead

- Sébastien BOTREAU-BONNETERRE, Embassy of France in Macedonia, Skopje
- Tobias FLESSENKEMPER, International Centre for European Studies (CIFE), Nice / University of Cologne
- Simonida KACARSKA/Malinka RISTEVSKA JORDANOVA, European Policy Institute, Skopje
- Florent MARCIACQ, Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (CFA/ÖFZ), Vienna / University of Luxembourg
- Sonja RISTESKA, Analytica, Skopje

16h30 *Debate*

Achievement and challenges

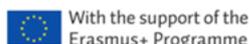
- State of the European Union
- Connectivity / Infrastructure
- Regional Youth Cooperation Office
- Civil society involvement
- Migration and mobility
- Political situation in EU member states
- Future of the “Berlin process”

17h30 *End of the programme, followed by refreshments*

Registration per Email: contact@epi.org.mk



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