



Roundtable and Debate

"What perspectives for the European integration of the Western Balkans?"

Western Balkans Reflection Forum – from Berlin to Trieste and the way ahead

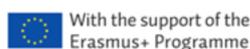
Podgorica, 3 February 2017 (morning)

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, German Chancellor Angela Merkel initiated the process. Its aim has been to improve cooperation between Western Balkan states, 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 and a third one in Paris in 2016. A fourth intergovernmental conference will take place in Italy in 2017. It is against this backdrop that a series of roundtables have been organised in all Western Balkan countries and beyond, in order to discuss what European integration means today, what kind of Europe Western Balkan states are likely to join, and what perspectives these have in the future.

The Podgorica roundtable will take place 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 Podgorica roundtable 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, until the second edition of the Reflection Forum on the Western Balkans takes place in Italy, next year and beyond.

The Podgorica roundtable comes at the end of a momentous year for the European Union and the Western Balkans. Participants will review the impact of the “Berlin process” and the quality of the intergovernmental cooperation of the Western Balkans countries with their EU partners in light of a changing European Union and international context for the region. Participation is free of charge.

This roundtable and debate is organized by the CFA / ÖFZ, CIFE and IAI, in cooperation with 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

09h00 *Welcome and opening*

- Aleksandar Andrija PEJOVIC, State Secretary for European Integration, Chief Negotiator for Negotiations on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union (tbc)

09h15 *Roundtable*

- Tobias FLESSENKEMPER, Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE), Nice & University of Cologne
- Florent MARCIACQ, University of Luxembourg & Centre franco-autrichien pour le rapprochement en Europe (CFA/ÖFZ), Vienna
- Eleonora POLI, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome
- Daliborka ULJAREVIC, Executive Director, Centre for Civic Education, Podgorica
- Alida VRACIC, Fellow researcher, German Institute for International and Security Affairs & Executive Director, think tank Populari, Sarajevo (tbc)

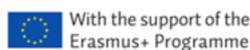
10h00 *Debate*

Achievement and challenges

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

11h00 *End of the programme, followed by refreshments*

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