



Poznań 2019

Western Balkans Summit

Think Tank Forum

The Western Balkans and the Berlin Process:

Current achievements, future goals

Poznań, 3 July 2019

Poznań International Fair, Building 8a

From 12.00 Registration

14.00 – 14.15 Opening

Welcome address: Adam Eberhardt, director of the Centre for Eastern Studies

Keynote speech: Szymon Szynkowski vel Sęk, deputy head of the Polish MFA, the Polish government's plenipotentiary for the organisation of the Western Balkans Summit

14.15 – 15.30 Connecting the dots

One of the aims of the Berlin Process is to enhance connectivity and regional cooperation throughout the Western Balkans. The Connectivity Agenda for the Western Balkans foresees the development of WBIF financing for the transport and energy infrastructure and stresses the importance of the implementation of technical standards and soft measures, such as aligning and simplifying border crossing procedures, etc. To ensure sustainable economic growth, emphasis has also been placed on fostering regional market integration and increasing mutually beneficial trade within the region. During the Trieste Summit, a MAP REA was endorsed. But today the implementation of infrastructure projects and the foreseen reforms are proceeding very slowly. Moreover, the performance of regional organisations such as CEFTA and the Energy Community faces numerous challenges. The panel will focus on assessing the current achievements in establishing the joint economic area and re-connection of the region.

Jelica Minić, former Deputy Secretary-General of the RCC, President of the Forum for International Relations

Ardian Hackaj, Research Director, Cooperation and Development Institute

Silvana Mojsovska, Institute of Economics, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje

Nenad Đurđević, Serbian Chamber of Commerce

Moderator: James Ker-Lindsay, LSE

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee break

15.45 – 17.00 Growing together

The Berlin Process is aimed at improving the socio-economic situation in the region and creating the conditions for stable economic growth. The panel will explore the social and economic development of the Western Balkan region, as well as the key social, economic, and employment challenges these countries are facing. These issues will be explored in light of the EU's policy instruments, with special emphasis placed on the tools developed in the framework of the Berlin Process cooperation. The impact of the Berlin Process on economic development in the Western Balkans will be evaluated. Furthermore, the panelists are going to debate the main challenges to building welfare states in the Western Balkans, such as the lack of sustainable results regarding the rule of law. The discussion should be concluded with recommendations for political leaders on how to make the Western Balkans more prosperous.



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Gersi Gashi, Democracy for Development, Kosovo

Dr Enkeleida Tahiraj, London School of Economics, United Kingdom

Jovana Marović, Politikon Network, Montenegro

Maja Bobić, EFB Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkans

Moderator: **Piotr Arak**, Director, Polish Economic Institute (TBC)

17.15 – 17.30 Coffee break

17.30 – 19.00 Challenges ahead

The Western Balkans Summit is taking place at a time when the composition of the European institution for the next five years is being decided. This will shape the new strategic priorities of EU policy towards the Balkans. The publication of the European Commission's new strategy for the Western Balkans in February 2018, the EU-Western Balkans summit in May 2018, and the continuation of the Berlin Process beyond 2018 shows the unprecedented wave of EU interest in the Balkans over the last year. However, growing opposition to further enlargement has called into question the continuation of these processes by the new European Commission, especially in view of the fact that some European politicians prefer to focus on reform of the European Union instead of enlargement policy. The panel discussion will reflect on the limitations of enlargement policy and the search for new ideas which could make the EU's approach towards the Western Balkans more effective, and on how to make enlargement policy more credible.

Vladimir Međak, Vice-President, European Movement, Serbia

Gjergji Vurmo, Programme Director, Institute for Democracy and Mediation, Albania

Srđan Majstorović, Chairman of the Governing Board, European Policy Centre, Serbia

Donika Emini, Researcher, Kosovar Centre for Security Studies, Kosovo

Maciej Popowski, Deputy Director-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Moderator: **Zoran Nechev**, senior researcher at the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" – Skopje (IDSCS)