



WESTERN BALKANS BEYOND 2020: ACTIONS AND DECISIONS IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

Virtual Conference/ 05 November 2020; 09:30 – 12:00 CET

ABOUT THE EVENT

The year 2020 was pivotal for the Western Balkan region and the enlargement is back on the EU's agenda. However, the COVID-19 not only hit the Western Balkan countries in a period of reacceleration of economic activity and put enormous pressure on the already fragile health systems in place, but also had an impact on the state of democracy in the region. Despite the global pandemic, the Zagreb Summit proclaimed the EU's "...unequivocal support for the European perspective of the Western Balkans" and highlighted the ample financial package of support provided by the EU to the region. The event would represent a great opportunity to hear the perspective of the Western Balkans states on the further development of the accession process and elaborate of regionally relevant issues and policies.

EVENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY (05/11/2020)

- 09:30 – 09:45** Opening remarks
Ilhan Kyuchyuk MEP, Vice-President of ALDE Party
Hilde Vautmans MEP, President of European Liberal Forum
- 09:45 – 10:00** Keynote speech
Olivér Várhelyi, EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement
- 10:00 – 12:00** Getting it Right: From a renewed accession process to political, economic, and social transformation of the region
Moderator: Ilhan Kyuchyuk MEP, Vice-President of ALDE Party

H.E. Bujar Osmani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia

H.E. Gent Cakaj, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania

Nathalie Loiseau MEP, Chair of the EP Subcommittee on Security and Defence

Željana Zovko MEP, EP Committee on Foreign Affairs

Majlinda Bregu, Secretary General of Regional Cooperation Council

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