

## **The Western Balkans: the path to European integration**

**Hotel Europa, Sarajevo (BiH), 19-21 May 2010**

### **Programme**

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#### **Wednesday, 19 May**

18:00 — 19:30 **Welcome and opening remarks**

- Álvaro de Vasconcelos, Director, European Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), Paris
- Jacques Rupnik, Directeur de recherche, Institut d'Études politiques (IEP), Paris
- Ana Trisic Babic, Deputy Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

20:00 — 22:00 ***Cocktail offered by the Spanish Presidency of the European Union  
(residence of the Spanish Ambassador)***

#### **Thursday, 20 May**

09:00 — 11:00 **Session I: The 'hour of Europe'. From conflict management to European integration**

**Until recently, stabilisation meant containment. Now, the EU has shifted to stabilisation through 'europeanisation'. Completing that task and renewing the Saloniki commitment is the key to EU credibility.**

*Chair:* Alejandro Alvargonzález San Martín, Ambassador, Representative of the Spanish EU Presidency

- Dimitris Kourkoulas, Head of the EU Delegation to Sarajevo, future Director, DG Enlargement, European Commission, Brussels
- Valentin Inzko, EU Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Osman Topcagic, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the EU

11:00 — 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 — 13:00 **Session II: State building and shared problems, an unfinished business**

**The on-going problems of state building, recognition, borders, national minorities, refugees. The relevance of the European model and European prospects for overcoming the legacies of war (reconciliation) and lingering nationalist agenda (unfinished state-building: Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia).**

*Chair:* Miroslav Lajcak, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Slovak Republic

- Veton Surroi, founder of *Koha Ditore*, Pristina
- Igor Stiks, Research Fellow, CITSEE, University of Edinburgh
- Zoran Thaler, MEP (Slovenia), Brussels

13:00 — 14:30 *Lunch*

Charles L. English, Ambassador of the United States to Bosnia and Herzegovina

14:30 — 16:00 **Session III: Rule of law and democratic governance**

A comparative, country-by-country, review of institution building. How, without functioning states, to confront organised crime (trafficking of weapons and people)? Democratic governance as domestic and European agenda.

*Chair:* Raimondo De Cardona, Ambassador of Italy to BiH, Sarajevo

- Vojko Volk, Ambassador Western Balkans Co-ordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ljubljana
- Alina Mungiu Pippidi, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
- Srdjan Dizdarevic, former President of the Helsinki Committee

16:00 — 16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30 — 18:00 **Session IV: Civil societies, citizenship and public opinion**

The support of public opinion for the goal of European integration remains weak. According to a Gallup poll (Balkan Monitor), none of the Western Balkan countries believe their country is heading in the right direction. There is generally greater distrust of the Balkan elites than of the European Union. Redefining citizenship and what role for civil society in the process of EU integration?

*Chair:* Dr Igor Vidacak, Head of Croatian Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Zagreb

- Jelica Minic, Deputy Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Sarajevo
- Alma Mašić, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, BiH office, Sarajevo
- Lidija Dimova, Executive Director, Macedonian Center for European Trainings, Skopje

**19:30 — 21:30 *Dinner offered by the Bosnian Minister for Foreign Affairs***

## Friday, 21 May

09:00-10:30 **Assessment of the EU integration of the Balkan Countries**

*Chair:* Bosse Hedberg, Swedish Ambassador to BiH

Presentation of the FPI Report: Denisa Sarajlic-Maglic, Director FPI

### **Round-table discussion**

- Róbert Manchin, Managing Director, the Gallup Organisation Europe, Brussels
- Charalambos Kontonis, Political Affairs Officer, DG Enlargement, European Commission, Brussels
- Momcilio Radulovic, Secretary-General, European Movement in Montenegro, Podgorica
- Jovan Teokarevic, Belgrade Faculty of Political Science, Belgrade

10:30 — 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 — 12:30 **Concluding session: Why, when and how? A European roadmap for the Balkans**

Why must EU integration of the Western Balkans remain a priority? What is the credible timeframe for accession? What will it take?

*Chair :* Álvaro Vasconcelos, Director EUISS, Paris

**Summarising the debate:** Jacques Rupnik, IEP, Paris

- Zlatko Lagumdžija, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sarajevo
- Zoran Thaler, MEP (Slovenia), Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament, Brussels
- Dimitris Kourkoulas, Head of the EU Delegation to Sarajevo, future Director, DG Enlargement, European Commission, Brussels