

As of 1.10.2018

Interparliamentary Conference
TRANSFORMING THE WESTERN BALKANS REGION -
A parliamentary perspective on the role and the future
of EU accession process

with Members of the European Parliament
and the Pre-Accession Countries' Parliaments

Organised by the **European Parliament**
(Democracy Support and Election Co-ordination Group
in cooperation with the Committee on Foreign Affairs)
and the **National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria**

Sofia, 5 October 2018

Venue : *Hall 3 , National Palace of Culture (NDK)*

Sofia (Bulgaria)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

8:15 – 9:00 Registration

In the Chair:	Mr/Ms , MP, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria(tbc) and Mr Eduard Kukan , MEP, European Parliament
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9:00 – 9:30 Opening of the Interparliamentary Conference:

Ms Tsveta Karayancheva, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

Ms Ekaterina Zaharieva, Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

9:30 –10:45 EU – Western Balkans Summit, Sofia Priority Agenda, Berlin Process Summit and the way ahead: continuing support for Western Balkans EU accession process

Ms DzHEMA Grozdanova, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr Andreas Schieder, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Austrian National Council

Mr Cristian-Sorin Dumitrescu, President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the the Senate of Romania

Mr Ognian Zlatev, Head of the European Commission's Representation in Sofia

Exchange of views

10:45 – 11:15 *Family photo and coffee break*

In the Chair:	Mr/Ms..... , MP, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria(tbc) and Mr Eduard Kukan , MEP, European Parliament
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11:15 – 12:30

The role of National Parliaments and the European Parliament for strengthening the European perspective of the Western Balkans

Mr/Ms, MEP, European Parliament (tbc)

Mr. Christian Buchmann, Chairperson of the EU-committee of the Austrian Federal Council

Mr Stefan Musoiu, Vice-Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania

Representatives of EU national parliaments

Representatives of Western Balkans parliaments

Exchange of views

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch hosted by the National Assembly of Bulgaria (Forum restaurant, National Palace of Culture)

In the Chair:

Mr/Ms....., MP, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria (tbc)
and
Mr Eduard Kukan, MEP, European Parliament

14:15 – 14:30

Keynote speech by Ms Livia Járóka, Vice- President of the European Parliament

14:30 – 15:30

Transformative effect of EU accession process on the region – challenges and achievements

Mr/Ms, MEP, European Parliament (tbc)

Representatives of Western Balkans parliaments

WB6 Advocacy Group representatives:

Mr Fatmir Curri, Kosovo Civil Society Foundation, Pristina

Ms Simonida Kacarska, European Policy Institute, Skopje

Ms Sidonja Manushi, Albanian Institute for international studies, Tirana

Ms Jelica Minić, European Movement in Serbia, Belgrade

Mr Momčilo Radulović, European Movement in Montenegro, Podgorica

Ms Lejla Ramić–Mesihović, Foreign policy Initiative, Sarajevo

Exchange of views

15:30 – 16:45 **Importance of interparliamentary and regional cooperation for speeding up reforms in EU acceding countries**

Mr/Ms, MEP, European Parliament

Dr. Milan Brglez, member of Slovenian parliament, representative of the South East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly

Mr. Damir Mateljan, member of Croatian parliament, representative of the Presidency of Central European Initiative Parliamentary Dimension

Mr. Goran Svilanovic, Secretary General of Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo

Mr Gjergj Murra, Executive Director, Western Balkans Fund

Exchange of views

16:45 – 17:00 **Concluding remarks**

Departure of participants