

Invitation to the Conference

THINKING AND SHAPING NEW BALKANS IN 2018: Navigating the ship between old challenges and new paradigms for the future

Date

Thursday, May 3rd 2018
16.00 to 21.00 h

Venue

Haus der Europäischen Union
Wipplingerstraße 35, 1010 Vienna

Content

Only a few years after the European Council in Thessaloniki in 2003 had strongly confirmed the perspective of EU integration for the Western Balkans, the EU enlargement process entered a phase of fatigue and political stalemate. Even though the technical process was kept on track and the EU Commission made large efforts to speed up the EU integration of the region, the new Commission under Jean-Claude Juncker underlined in 2014 that no enlargement would happen within the next five years. However, pressured by the looming democratic and economic crisis in the Western Balkans as well as the return of the geopolitical power struggle to the region, it was obvious that a new momentum for enlargement would have to be created in order to fill the EU perspective for the region with life.

2018 has been frequently described as the „year of hope“ for EU enlargement and for the Balkans. In February 2018, a new Enlargement Strategy was presented in Strasbourg by the EU Commission. Bulgaria, currently having the Presidency of the Council of the EU, will organize a major Balkan's Summit in May 2018. Austria, for a long time one of the most prominent promoters of the EU Enlargement for the Western Balkans and a country deeply intertwined with the region, will assume the EU presidency in the second half of 2018. 2018 represents one of the crucial moments for enlargement as major steps need to be undertaken to reach the goal of making enlargement perspective realistic for 2025.

*The event will be held in English.
Refreshments will be served after the event.*

Registration

International Institute for Peace (IIP)
www.iipvienna.com/registration/

With kind support of



Programme:

16:00

WELCOME

WOLFGANG BOGENSBERGER, Deputy Head of the European Commission
Representation in Austria

HANNES SWOBODA, President of the International Institute for Peace (IIP), MEP ret.

GERHARD MARCHL, Karl-Renner-Institut, Department for European Politics

16:20

KEYNOTE

MICHAEL KARNITSCHNIG, Chief of Cabinet of Johannes Hahn, European
Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

16:45

**PANEL I: EU-ENLARGEMENT REFRESHED VS. OLD AND NEW GEOPOLITICAL
CHALLENGES (RUSSIA, TURKEY, CHINA)**

ADI CERIMAGIC, European Stability Initiative

RICHARD GRIEVESON, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)

MICHAEL KARNITSCHNIG, Chief of Cabinet of Commissioner Hahn

THOMAS MÜHLMANN, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of
Austria, Deputy Director, South Eastern Europe and EU Enlargement

VUK VELEBIT, Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade

ALIDA VRACIC, Popolari, Sarajevo

Moderator

VEDRAN DZIHIC, Senior Researcher at the oiiip and Lecturer at the University of
Vienna

18:15

Coffee Break

18:45

KEYNOTE

TANJA FAJON, MEP, S&D Group, Slovenia

19:10

**PANEL II: NEW PARADIGM? YOUTH AND CIVIL SOCIETY FORCES SHAPING
NEW BALKANS**

SAMIR BEHARIC, oiiip, Global Studies, Global History Program, University Vienna

JULIA HERR, President of the Socialist Youth Austria (*tbc*)

DONA KOSTURANOVA, Youth Educational Forum, Skopje

MARIO MAZIC, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Zagreb

AULONË MEMETI, DOIT, Priština

DAFINA PEĆI, National Youth Congress, Tirana

SENADA SELO-SABIC, Institute for Development and International Relations, Zagreb

Moderator

HANNES SWOBODA, President of the International Institute for Peace (IIP), MEP ret.

21:00

End