

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING:

Friends of Western Balkans &
Nizami Ganjavi International Center

**WESTERN BALKANS
in the
EUROPEAN UNION**

I.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE
FRIENDS OF WESTERN BALKANS

19-20 April 2024 | Ljubljana, Slovenia

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING:
Friends of Western Balkans and Nizami Ganjavi International Center

WESTERN BALKANS
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EUROPEAN UNION

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DRAFT: 11 April

PROGRAM

18 APRIL | THURSDAY

Arrival of Participants

Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana
Slovenska cesta 59, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

19:00 WELCOME RECEPTION

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana / recorded session

Welcome remarks:

- **Borut Pahor**, President of Slovenia 2012-2022, Prime Minister of Slovenia 2008-2012, Founder and Director of Friends of Western Balkans
- **Rovshan Muradov**, Secretary-General, Nizami Ganjavi International Center

19 APRIL | FRIDAY

09:30 FAMILY PHOTO

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana

10:00 OPENING CEREMONY

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana / Open to Public

- **Borut Pahor**, President of Slovenia 2012-2022, Prime Minister of Slovenia 2008-2012, Founder and Director of Friends of Western Balkans
- **Rosen Plevneliev**, President of Bulgaria 2012-2017, Board of Trustees Member, Nizami Ganjavi International Center

10:15-13:00 SESSION 1: "Political and Security Situation in the Western Balkans in the Context of the Geopolitical Changes in Europe and in the World"

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana / Open to Public

Roundtable Chairs:

- **Borut Pahor**, President of Slovenia 2012-2022, Prime Minister of Slovenia 2008-2012, Founder and Director of Friends of Western Balkans
- **Volkan Bozkir**, 75th President of the UN General Assembly

First Speakers:

- **Catherine Ashton**, Chancellor of the University in Warwick, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy 2009-2014
- **Heinz Fischer**, Federal President of Austria 2004-2016
- **Boris Tadic**, President of Serbia 2004-2012
- **Susan Elliott**, CEO and President of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy

GENERAL DEBATE (All Speakers are invited to take the floor)

13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana

14:30 - 18:30 SESSION 2: "Enlargement Strategy of EU (and NATO) to Western Balkans (and to Ukraine and Moldova)"

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana / Open to Public

Roundtable Chairs:

- **Mladen Ivanic**, Serb Member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014-2018
- **Ivo Josipovic**, President of Croatia 2010-2015

First Speakers:

- **Miroslav Lajcak**, EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues
- **Benita Ferrero-Waldner**, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria 2000-2004; European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy 2004-2009; European Commissioner for Trade and European Neighborhood Policy 2009-2010
- **Radmila Sekerinska**, Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration 2004; Minister of Defence of North Macedonia 2017-2022
- **Milica Pejanovic Durisic**, Minister of Defence of Montenegro 2012-2016

16:00 COFFEE BREAK

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana

GENERAL DEBATE (All Speakers are invited to take the floor)

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana / Open to Public

19:30 GROUP PHOTO

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana

20:00 GALA DINNER

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana / recorded session

20 APRIL | SATURDAY

09:00- 10:30 SESSION 3: "Establishing the Western Balkans Economic Community"

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana / Open to Public

Roundtable Chairs:

- **Igor Luksic**, Prime Minister of Montenegro 2010-2012
- **Zef Mazi**, Chief Negotiator for Albania's Accession to the EU 2020-2022

First Speakers:

- **Filip Vujanovic**, President of Montenegro 2006-2018
- **Mojmir Mrak**, Professor and a Jean Monnet Chair holder at the Academic Unit for Money and Finance at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana
- **Igor Luksic**, Prime Minister of Montenegro 2010-2012

GENERAL DEBATE (All Speakers are invited to take the floor)

10:30 COFFEE BREAK

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana

10:45- 11:45 SESSION 4: “Western Balkan Integration in to the European Green Deal : on a Path to COP29”

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana / Open to Public

Roundtable Chairs:

- **Borut Pahor**, President of Slovenia 2012-2022, Prime Minister of Slovenia 2008-2012, Founder and Director of Friends of Western Balkans
- **Rosen Plevneliev**, President of Bulgaria 2012-2017

First Speakers:

- **Volkan Bozkir**, 75th President of the UN General Assembly
- **Susan Elliott**, CEO and President of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy
- **Boris Tadic**, President of Serbia 2004-2012

GENERAL DEBATE (All Speakers are invited to take the floor)

11:45- 12:15 CLOSING CEREMONY

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana / recorded session

12:15 PRESS CONFERENCE

13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana