

**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

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EUROPEAN UNION

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19-20 April 2024 | Ljubljana, Slovenia

DRAFT: 18 April

## PROGRAM

### 18 APRIL | THURSDAY

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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

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#### 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 Tadić**, President of Serbia 2004-2012
- **Susan Elliott**, CEO and President of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy

*Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana*

**GENERAL DEBATE (All speakers are invited to take the floor)**

13:00 – 14:45 LUNCH

*Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana*

14:45 -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 Ivanić**, Chairman of Presidency Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014-2015, Member of Presidency Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014-2018
- **Ivo Josipović**, President of Croatia 2010-2015

*First Speakers:*

- **Miroslav Lajčák**, 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
- **Radmila Šekerinska**, Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration 2004; Minister of Defence of North Macedonia 2017-2022
- **Milica Pejanović Djurišić**, 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**

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

*Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Ljubljana / Open to Public*

*Roundtable Chairs:*

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

*First Speakers:*

- **Filip Vujanović**, 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, Slovenia

## 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 Tadić**, 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*

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