

EU Policy Hub

In a Year

2018



REGIONAL FORUM

'DOUBLE FATIGUE' TO EU ENLARGEMENT? CHALLENGES & PROSPECT OF WESTERN BALKANS

The EU enlargement process over the past years has witnessed an odd mix of challenges. On the one side there are the 'domestic fatigues' of the remaining countries of the Western Balkans to catch up with European integration and on the other side, there is the 'EU fatigue' to deliver tailor-made approach to the specific needs of these countries. The 'double fatigue' is nowadays a reality, yet one which is rarely discussed comprehensively. The forum aims to assess simultaneously not only the challenges that Western Balkans are facing towards EU membership but also the EU enlargement policy and strategy towards the region. The year 2018 was an important year for the European future of the Western Balkans. The European Commission in its enlargement strategy identified a series of steps to lead Montenegro and Serbia towards EU membership by 2025, it also recommended that Albania and Macedonia initiate accession negotiations, furthermore, a special summit dedicated to the Western Balkans was held in Sofia on May. Moreover, Austria's EU presidency in the second half of the year, Great Britain's exit from the EU and the European elections to be held in 2019 may also have an effect on the European perspective of the remaining countries of the Western Balkans. The forum brings together a number of European and national high-level officials, experts and civil society members to reflect on the challenges and propose way-outs to overcome the 'double fatigue' of EU enlargement further to South-East of Europe.

www.eupolicyhub.eu

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ADVOCACY

"We believe that there is a vital need to confirm the political will of the EU and its member states, and bring our country forward, strongly connected to Europe"

EUPH Advocacy:

- ✓ Meeting with officials from the Ministry of Interior to discuss ways of cooperation in the framework of the pre-screening process on Chapter 24 (05.12)
- ✓ EU Policy Hub send its comments to the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs on the Draft Decision of the Council of Ministers for the "The establishment, organization and functioning of the state structure responsible for negotiating and concluding the Republic of Albania Accession Treaty with the European Union" (27.11)
- ✓ EU Policy Hub calls upon EU states' Parliaments to open negotiations, through a Memo send to France, the Netherlands and Germany explaining why negotiations should be opened with Albania (05.06)
- ✓ The members of the EUPH presented their position to the German Minister for Europe, Michael Roth at a meeting organized in the framework of his official visit to Albania. (11.05)

Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal,
House of Representatives of the Dutch Parliament,
Postbus 20018, 2500 EA The Hague, The Netherlands

Tiranë, 27 nëntor 2018

Lënda: Komente për projekt-vendimin "Për krijimin, organizimin dhe funksionimin e strukturës shtetërore përgjegjëse për zhvillimin e negociatave dhe përfundimin e Traktatit të Aderimit të Republikës së Shqipërisë në Bashkimin Evropian"

MEMO

Honourable Members of the House of Representatives of the Dutch Parliament,

As members of EU Policy Hub, a group of young Albanian professionals endorsing European integration, we would like to bring to your attention and call upon your political will to consider

Në përgjigje të thirrjes së Ministrisë për Evropën dhe Punë të Jashtme drejtuar subjekteve të interesuar. Ju paraqesim më poshtë komentet e Forumit të Politikave të Integrimit – EU Policy Hub në lidhje me projekt-vendimin "Për krijimin, organizimin dhe funksionimin e strukturës shtetërore përgjegjëse për zhvillimin e negociatave dhe përfundimin e Traktatit të Aderimit të Republikës së Shqipërisë në Bashkimin Evropian"

MONITORING



1. 'The Hurdle Race' to EU Membership: Is Albania a Laggard and Why?
2. One Year from the Conceptualization of the Regional Economic Area to its Implementation
3. The establishment of the National Council for Civil Society: A Challenge or Achievement?
4. The role and importance of Albanian legal and institutional framework in guarantying consumers food safety.
5. Albania's challenges to implementation of Agri-Environmental Policies in the frame of EU-Accession
 - i. Albanian agricultural policy development and compliance with EU Common Agriculture Policy
 - ii. Agriculture development and smallholders in Albania
 - iii. Albania's challenges to implementation of EU's Water Framework Directive

PUBLIC AWARENESS



EU DEBATES:

- ✓ What's New in the European Integration Process in Local Democracy Issues?, December, 19 December, Ura Vajgurore
- ✓ What's New in the European Integration Process on Consumer Protection and Food Safety? 21 November, Vlora & 22 November, Tirana
- ✓ Citizens' Handbook, 15 April, Has



INFOGRAPHICS



⇒ Anticipated Key Developments in 2019

⇒ Beneficiaries of the intensified regional cooperation through the Berlin process

⇒ What are the opportunities to finalize the European Union process with the Western Balkan countries by 2025?

⇒ How prepared is Albania to open accession negotiations?



PARTNERSHIP



SEEThinkNetNetwork
EUPH is member of the first regional think tank network to monitor the Berlin Process



Meetings

Berlin Process: 'London Summit 2018', Tirana, July 6

Berlin Process: 'From London Summit to Poznań', Tirana, 7 December

Publications

2018 Western Balkans Summit: 3 key takeaways from London

The Credible Enlargement Perspective for the Western Balkans through the lenses of the Berlin Process

"It is your summit"... "We only host the event"



EUPH VOLUNTARISM, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



EUPH, this year join the World Vision cause “Hello Life” in support of children with special needs in Librazhd

Join the cause at
<https://www.tungjatjeta.al/>



EUPH had an interesting meeting on 20 April 2018 with 35 students of history from the University of Groningen from The Netherlands. The discussion was focused especially on the reasons why the member states, as the Netherlands, had to approve on 28 June 2018 the opening of accession negotiations between EU and Albania.

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