Long and Winding Road:
Western Balkans' path to EU between the dream and reality

June 12, 2018

The focus of the seminar is on the perspectives outlined in the new strategy for the Western Balkans of the European Commission, how realistic is the 2025 benchmark, how the strategy is perceived in the region, is it a déjà vu or a true new opening? The discussion is intended as a framework for open debate among the participants under Chatham House Rule.

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

10:00 Transfer from hotel to conference venue

10:30 Welcoming remarks

Gertraud Auer Borea d'Olmo, Secretary General, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue

Ivan Krastev, Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies; Permanent Fellow IWM

10:40 Session 1: **The EU Western Balkans Strategy – opportunities, obstacles, credibility**

Zoltán Martinusz, Director for Enlargement, Security, Civil Protection and Foreign Affairs Council Support, General Secretariat of the Council of the EU;
Johanna Deimel, Deputy-Director Southeast Europe Association, Munich;
Kristof Bender, Deputy Chairman, European Stability Initiative;
Moderator: **Hannes Swoboda**, Member of the board, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue, former member of the European Parliament and President of the S&D group

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Session 2 **How the strategy is perceived in the region?**

Jovan Teokarević, Professor, University of Belgrade and College of Europe;
Svetlana Cenić, economic analyst;
Albert Musliu, Alliance for Development Initiatives;
Veton Surroi, writer and founder of KOHA Ditore, Pristina, Kosovo;

Moderator: **Gordana Delić**, Director, Balkan Trust for Democracy, GMF

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Session 3 **'A credible enlargement perspective' - a déjà vu or a true new opening?**

Ivan Krastev, Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies; Permanent Fellow IWM;

Sonja Licht, President of Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence;
Saso Ordanoski, program manager at Center for Strategic Research and Documentation Forum; Professor at the University of South-East Europe;
Remzi Lani, executive director of the Albanian Media Institute;
Moderator: **Ivan Vejvoda**, Permanent Fellow at IWM, former Senior Vice President for Programs at GMF

18:30 Public discussion

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Chair: **Gertraud Auer Borea d'Olmo**, Secretary General, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue

20:30 Dinner (walking distance from Bruno Kreisky Forum)

The discussion is jointly organized by

Centre for Liberal Strategies
Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue
Balkan Trust for Democracy, German Marshall Fund