



Europe's Futures, a strategic partnership of ERSTE Foundation and IWM
in cooperation with the **Diplomatic Academy Vienna**

Special Session on North Macedonia

11 June 2019, Vienna

Venue: Institute for Human Sciences, Spittelauer Lände 3, Vienna

The Prespa Agreement between Greece and Macedonia reached on 12 June 2018 was a groundbreaking historical moment ending a 27 year-old stalemate and a frozen-conflict of sorts in the Balkans. It demonstrated that however difficult the problem political courage, leadership and statesmanship can lead to a compromise. Its importance for the two countries, for the region and for Europe cannot be overestimated.

The meeting will address this positive example in light on the ongoing challenges the Western Balkans face in resolving their remaining outstanding bilateral and regional issues It will also focus its attention on the European Union enlargement process of the region. The argument that the EU must deepen before it widens that resurfaced in the election campaign for the EU Parliament provoked a number of debates in major EU member states and reverberated throughout the Western Balkans in different ways.

Will the European Union be capable of maintaining its strategic goal and Thessaloniki promise of June 2003 to enlarge “without ifs and buts” to the WB6. It is also crucially of and about the credibility of the European Union as a peace project at the beginning of the 21st Century.

PROGRAMME

- 15:00 Welcome address
Hedvig Morvai, Director Strategy and Europe, ERSTE Foundation
Emil Brix, Director, Diplomatic Academy Vienna
Ivan Vejvoda, IWM Permanent Fellow, Head of “Europe’s Futures”
- 15:10 **The importance of Prespa Agreement and the future of EU enlargement**
Introductory speakers:
Dane Taleski, Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of North Macedonia
Ioannis Armakolas, Head of South-East Europe Programme at ELIAMEP
Srdjan Cvijic, Senior Policy Analyst at Open Society Foundations
- 16:55 *Coffee Break*
- 17:10 **The vitality of Transatlantic relations – could EU and NATO diverge on Western Balkans?**
Introductory speakers:
Isabelle Ioannides, Senior Associate Researcher, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Kristof Bender, European Stability Initiative/IWM Fellow
Rosa Balfour, GMF US/IWM Fellow
- 19:00 *End*
- 19:30 **Dinner**
Venue: Porzellan Lounge, Servitengasse 2

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The Chatham House Rule applies.

The working language is English.

WiFi network: “IWM-G”, password: “institute”.

Participants

Tim Judah	The Economist, London/IWM Fellow
Srdjan Majstorovic	Centre for European Policies, Belgrade
Zsuzsanna Szelenyi	Hungarian politician/IWM Fellow
Rosa Balfour	GMF US, Brussels/IWM Fellow
Kristof Bender	European Stability Initiative/IWM Fellow
Ivan Vejvoda	IWM Permanent Fellow, Vienna
Hedvig Morvai	ERSTE Foundation, Vienna
Srdjan Cvijic	Open Society Foundations, Brussels
HE Emil Brix	Diplomatic Academy Vienna
HE Nenad Kolev	Ambassador of North Macedonia, Vienna
Ioannis Armakolas	ELIAMEP, Athens
Giorgos Makeroufas	OSCE, Vienna
Isabelle Ioannides	Vrije Universiteit, Brussels
Alida Vračić	Populari, Sarajevo
Niccolo Milanese	European Alternatives, Paris
Luke Cooper	Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge
Marina Lalovic	RAI/IWM Fellow
Dane Taleski	Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of North Macedonia
Dustin DeGrande	US Department of State, Vienna
Grigorij Meseznikov	Institute for Public Affairs, Bratislava