



Vienna Security Dialogues 2019 (VSD19): Perceptions on the EU Western Balkans Strategy

February 18-19, 2019

Venue
National Defence Academy, Sala Terrena

Draft Program

February 18

10:00-10:30 Arrival & coffee

10:30-10:45 Welcome:

GenLt Erich Csitkovits, Cdt National Defence Academy

Opening remarks:

GM Johann Frank, Defence Policy Director, Federal Ministry of Defence

10:45-12:30 **Introduction of the EU Western Balkan Strategy**

Michael Karnitschnig, Chief of Cabinet of EU Commissioner Hahn

Vessela Tcherneva, Programme Director and Head of Sofia Office
European Council on Foreign Relations

Thomas Widrich, Political Advisor to EUSR in Bosna and Herzegovina

Kristof Bender, Deputy Chairman, European Stability Initiative (ESI)

Chair: **Ivan Krastev**, Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies,
Permanent Fellow IWM

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 **Russian priorities in the Western Balkans and perception of the EU
Western Balkan Strategy**

Andrey Kortunov, Director General of the Russian International Affairs
Council, President of the New Eurasia Foundation in Moscow

Natalya Burlinova, political scientist and president of the Center for
Support and Development of Public Initiatives – Creative Diplomacy

Ekaterina Entina, Higher School of Economics

Joris Van Bladel, Associate Fellow, Austrian Institute for European and
Security Policy (AIES)



Chair: **Johanna Deimel**, Deputy-Director Southeast Europe Association

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-18:00 **Turkish priorities in the Western Balkans and perception of the EU Western Balkan Strategy**

Suat Kiniklioglu, Executive Director, Center for Strategic Communication (STRATIM)

Birgül Demirtaş TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Political Science and International Relations Department

İnan Rüma, Department of International Relations, International Political Economy Master Program Coordinator, Bilgi University

Chair: **Igor Kolman**, Head of the Programme Council of Croatian Civic Liberal Alliance (GLAS)

February 19

10:00-12:00 **External priorities from the perspective of the Western Balkans**

Vesna Pusic, sociologist, former Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia

Sonja Licht, President, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence

Remzi Lani, executive director of the Albanian Media Institute

Chair: **Predrag Jurekovic**, National Defence Academy/
Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management

12:00-13:00 Lunch



- 13:00-15:00 **The way forward – Common Challenge for Regional Stability**
Milica Delevic, Director for Governance and Political Affairs at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Hedvig Morvai, Manager at ERSTE Foundation, Executive Director of the European Fund for the Balkans and former director of the Citizens' Pact for South Eastern Europe
Sven Biscop, Director, Europe in the World Programme, Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations; Visiting Professor, Ghent University & College of Europe (Bruges)
Chair: **Ivan Krastev**, Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies, Permanent Fellow IWM
- 15:00-15:15 **Closing remarks** by Ivan Krastev
- 15:15-16:00 Farewell coffee

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