

# BETTER TOGETHER: Building a resilient Europe

10 & 11 September 2024 | Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana

#BerlinProcess10 #TCF2024

Organized by: Under the auspices of: Part of the official calendar of: In partnership with:



## TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER | DAY 1

### 09.00 – 09.45 Breakfast with H.E. Mr. Igli Hasani, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Albania (*upon invitation*)

The conversation will focus on Berlin Process, Regional Cooperation and South East Europe 6 accession path to European Union.

### 10.00 – 10.20 Opening Remarks

- Mr. Ardian Hackaj, Tirana Connectivity Forum Coordinator, Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI)
- H.E. Mr. Igli Hasani, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Albania

### 10.20 – 11.10 Keynote speeches

- Mr. Marton Ugrosdy, Deputy State Secretary, Hungarian Presidency of the EU Council
- Ms. Valentina Superti, Director Western Balkans, Directorate General NEAR (online)
- Mr. Manuel Sarrazin, German Special Representative to Western Balkans (online)
- Mr. Oliver Röpke, President, European Economic and Social Committee

### 11.10-11.30 Coffee break

### 11.30 – 13.00 Increasing private sector footprint in the EU-supported connectivity initiatives

*Building upon the [conclusions of Berlin Process Spring Event 2024](#), the discussion will focus on private sector involvement in both financing and implementation of EU connectivity initiatives*

- Mr. Vincenzo Del Monaco, Minister Plenipotentiary, co-chair of the G7 Digital & Tech Working Group, Ministry of Entrepreneurship and of Made in Italy (online)
- Mr. Matteo Rivellini, Head of Division, European Investment Bank (online)
- Ms. Diana Leka, Head of Secretariat, Albania Investment Council
- Ms. Anja Quiring, Regional Director for South East Europe, German Eastern Business Association

*Moderated by Mr. Ardian Hackaj, Tirana Connectivity Forum Coordinator, CDI*

*Discussants: Mr. Piervittorio Farabbi, Chief Operating Officer, Tirana International Airport; Mr. Alexander Rahr, Senior Fellow, WeltTrends Institute for International Politics, Potsdam, Germany; Mr. Andi Dobrush, Director, Open Society Foundation in Western Balkans.*

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## 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break

## 14.30 – 16.00 Western Balkans as a Security Provider for EU – the role of Connectivity Infrastructure

*Reflecting on the ongoing war in Europe's eastern flank, the discussion will focus on the contribution of WB6 connectivity infrastructure to Europe's security and resilience*

- Mr. Pirro Vengu, Minister of Defense, Albania
- Mr. Filip Radulović, Minister of Maritime Affairs, Montenegro
- Mr. Marko Makovec, Director and Deputy Managing Director, European External Action Service (online)
- Mr. Matej Zakonjsek, Director, Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community
- Mr. Zsolt Bunford, Hungarian Special Envoy for the Western Balkans
- Mr. René Troccaz, Special Envoy for the Western Balkans of France (online)

*Moderated by Mr. Knut Fleckenstein, Former Member of European Parliament*

*Discussants: Mr. Alexander Beribes, Office for the Western Balkans and Southeast Europe, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; Ms. Dragana Djurica, Secretary General, European Movement Serbia*

## 19.00 – 21.00 FORUM OF FORUMS. Night Owl Session, on Heavy trends impacting Europe in 2025 (upon invitation)

*The session will provide a polyvalent picture of emerging trends projected to shape EU relations with Western Balkans and Eastern Neighborhood*

*Welcome remarks, by Mr. Klaus Fiesinger, Regional Director South-East Europe, Hanns Seidel Foundation, and by Dr. Thomas Kunze, Director of Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Tirana*

Followed by a discussion with:

- Mr. Márton Schőberl, Budapest Balkans Forum
- Mr. Žiga Faktor, Prague Enlargement Forum
- Mr. Norbert Beckmann, Burgas Connectivity Forum
- Mr. Peter Grk, Bled Strategic Forum
- Mr. Ardian Hackaj, Tirana Connectivity Forum

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## WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER | DAY 2

### 08.45 – 09.00 Registration of the participants

### 09.00 – 09.15 Opening Remarks “Reforming and Enlarging: The way ahead”

- H.E. Mr. Silvio Gonzato, Ambassador, European Union Delegation to Albania

### 09.15 - 09.45 Keynote Speeches on “The Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and Human Capital”

- Mr. Enrico Letta, Former Italian Prime Minister; President, Jacques Delors Institute (video-message)
- Ms. Tanja Miščević, Minister of European Integration, Serbia (online)
- Ms. Majlinda Bregu, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council
- Ms. Maja Handjiska-Trendafilova, Director, Regional School of Public Administration

### 09.45 – 10.00 Questions, answers and following discussion, moderated by Ms. Simonida Kacarska, Director, European Policy Institute, Skopje

### 10.00 – 10.30 Coffee break

### 10.30 – 11.55 Reviewing EU accession policy toolbox

*EU and SEE6 policy-makers and systemic actors will present latest developments impacting accession pace and its intended benefits for the Europe’s citizen*

- Ms. Jorida Tabaku, Chair of EU Integration Commission, Member of Albanian Parliament
- Mr. Thilo Schroeter, Chargé d’Affaires, German Embassy, Albania
- Mr. Jorge Núñez Ferrer, Director for Cohesion & EU Budget, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions
- Mr. Thomas Schwab, Senior Expert, European Economics, Bertelsmann Stiftung
- Ms. Jana Juzová, Research Fellow, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

*Moderated by Ms. Milena Mihajlović, Programme Director, European Policy Centre, Belgrade*

*Discussants: Ms. Barbara Valenzano, Director, Puglia Region; Ms. Luisa Chiodi, Director, Osservatorio Balcani and Caucaso Transeuropa; Ms. Krisela Hackaj, Director, Cooperation and Development Institute*

### 12.05 – 13.30 Single Market and SEE6 Regional cooperation

*High Level experts and CSO representatives will discuss about Common Regional Market progress, Growth*

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## *Plan push to faster access to EU Single Market, and role of social actors*

- Ms. Pranvera Kastrati, Acting Head of Program Department, Regional Cooperation Council
- Ms. Olivera Ceni Bardiqi, Trade Facilitation Expert, Central Europe Free Trade Agreement
- Ms. Ledia Bregu, Director, Department of Payment Systems, Accounting and Finance, Bank of Albania
- Ms. Blerina Raca, Project Manager, Support to accession negotiations in economic chapters of acquis project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH

*Moderated by Ms. Fjoralba Caka, Senior Expert, Cooperation and Development Institute*

*Discussants: Mr. Ionut Sibian, Member, European Economic and Social Committee; Ms. Francesca Porcelli, Policy Officer for Social and Economic Development, Growth Plan Coordinator; Mr. Stefan Ristovski, Researcher, European Policy Institute; Mr. Sokol Zeneli, Independent Consultant on EU Integration, Regional Cooperation, International Trade and Development*

**13.30 – 13.40 Wrap up and closure**