



NATO Foundation
Defense College



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for Democracy
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BALKAN PERSPECTIVES 2020

The Fight for a Timely Inclusion

High-Level Conference

Organised by the NATO Defense College Foundation

*In co-operation with the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, the Balkan Trust for Democracy,
the European Union and the NATO Defense College*

Rome, 28th of September 2020

Venue: *Centro Congressi Roma Eventi - Piazza di Spagna, Via Alibert, 5/a, Rome*

28TH OF SEPTEMBER 2020

DRAFT

14,00 - 14,30 Participants Registration

14,30 - 14,45 *Welcome Remarks*

- **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome *
- **Stephen J. Mariano**, Dean, NATO Defense College, Rome *

14,45 - 15,00 *Introductory Remarks*

- **Nicola de Santis**, Head, Engagements Section, Public Diplomacy Division, NATO Headquarters, Brussels (Virtual) *

15,00 - 16,15

SESSION 1

WAYS AND MEANS FOR A CREDIBLE INCLUSION

Since the Dayton Agreement the Balkans have been a success story in terms of peace-building and stability. Nevertheless, both domestic difficulties and the constant crises in the international environment affecting the Balkan Six have made the integration path particularly difficult, in addition to a global pandemic with unprecedented effects. The EU presidency is committed to continue negotiations at different levels with Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and North Macedonia. Half of the region is still in a limbo concerning NATO membership. What are the best paths and instruments towards a credible inclusion? How can we forestall regional enlargement fatigue?

Chair: **Ivan Vejvoda**, Permanent Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna *

- **Maciej Popowski**, Acting Director-General, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission, European Union, Brussels (Virtual) *
- **Ian Lesser**, Vice President and Executive Director, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Brussels *
- **Ahmet Evin**, Founding Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sabanci University, Istanbul *
- **Andrea Orizio**, Head of Mission, OSCE, Belgrade *

Q&A

16,15 – 16,45 Coffee/Tea break

16,45 – 17,00

Question time with:

Damon Wilson, Executive Vice President, Atlantic Council, Washington D.C. (Virtual) *

Interviewer: **Valerie Hopkins**, Financial Times, South-East Europe Correspondent, Budapest *

17,00 – 18,15

SESSION 2 THE BALKANS' DRIVING FORCES

The Balkans are fighting for their future. The intertwining between domestic policies still hostage to old and new factionalisms, extremely fragile economies and societal tensions towards more freedom, is common to all countries but it presents also local peculiarities that need a tailored approach. How can societies break the political depression-repression cycle that erodes public confidence and pushes towards emigration and depopulation?

Chair: **Jan Kickert**, Ambassador of Austria to Italy

- **Arne Sannes Bjørnstad**, Special Representative for Western Balkans, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo (Virtual) *
- **Luisa Chiodi**, Scientific Director, OBC Transeuropa, Trento *
- **Remzi Lani**, Executive Director, Albanian Media Institute, Tirana *
- **Valbona Zeneli**, Chair, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch-Partenkirchen *
- **Lubomir Ivanov**, former Permanent Representative of Bulgaria, NATO, Brussels *

Q&A

18,15 – 18,25 *Special Intervention*

Michele Risi, Commander, Kosovo Force (KFOR), NATO, Pristina *

18,25 – 18,35 *Concluding Remarks*

Piero Fassino, President, Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies, Rome *

END OF THE CONFERENCE

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