



Kindly hosted by
Representation of the
Free State of Bavaria
to the European Union

INVITATION

21 January 2020

12.30 pm
to 2.00 pm

**Representation of the
Free State of Bavaria
to the EU**

Rue Wiertz 77
1000 Brussels

from 12.00 pm

12.30 pm

12.35 Uhr

12.45 pm

2.00 pm

Croatia before the Western Balkans Summit: Stability as a key factor for the development of the region

Croatia currently holds the EU Council Presidency. The young EU member will deploy the six months to promote the well-being and stability of his immediate neighbourhood in Southeast Europe. That is also why Croatia has made the Western Balkans Summit in Zagreb in May a priority of its presidency.

20 years after the 1st EU-Western Balkan Summit (then EU15), the Western Balkans are still struggling with political instability, weak institutions and corruption. Despite the prospect of accession for all Western Balkan countries explicitly stated at the 2003 summit in Thessaloniki, only Slovenia and Croatia have become EU Member States so far. Recently, the perspectives for the other countries were overshadowed by the veto of a group of member states such as France.

What results can be expected from the Zagreb Summit and what impact could it have on the region? Which of the Croatian experiences could be helpful for its neighbours? What prompted countries like France or the Netherlands to refuse the beginning of accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia?

We hereby cordially invite you to discuss these questions with our eminent panellists.

Programme

Registration and light lunch

Welcome and Introduction:

Barbara SCHRETTNER, Director, Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the EU

Dr. Markus EHM, Director, European Office Brussels, Hanns Seidel Foundation

Key Note:

Goran ŠARAVANJA, Economist, Author and Director of IMELUM Research Institute

Statements and Panel Discussion:

• **Katrin STAFFLER, MP**, Member of the Committee for the Affairs of the European Union of the German Bundestag and rapporteur of the CDU/CSU-Group for EU enlargement policy

• **Željana ZOVKO, MEP**, Member in the Delegation for relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo

• **Pierre BENALET**, Journalist, Radio France

• **Goran ŠARAVANJA**, economist, author and director of IMELUM Research Institute

Moderation: **Dr Nikolaos TZIFAKIS**, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese – Research Associate, Martens Centre

End of the event

Conference languages: English and German – simultaneous interpretation is provided.

Organisation and Contact:

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