

Good Governance and Anti-Corruption in Southeast Europe in Times of Geopolitical Uncertainty

Regional Policy Forum

Monday, 26 September 2022
Metropol Palace Hotel, Belgrade, Serbia

Agenda

10.00 – 10.20 Opening Speeches

- **Mr. Nemanja TODOROVIĆ ŠTIPLIJA**, Executive Director, Centre for Contemporary Politics, Belgrade
- **Mr. Aleksandar KRŽALOVSKI**, Director, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, Skopje / SELDI Coordinator
- **H.E. Mr. Emanuele GIAUFRET**, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia, Belgrade
- **H.E. Mr. Christopher HILL**, United States Ambassador to Serbia, Belgrade

10:20 – 10.30 Keynote Address

- **(ZOOM) Ms. Anna VEZYROGLOU**, Deputy Head of Unit D1 (Western Balkans Policy and Regional Strategy), DG NEAR, European Commission, Brussels

10.40 – 12.25 Geopolitics, State Capture and Peak Corruption: What Is Next for Anticorruption in Southeast Europe?

- **Mr. Ruslan STEFANOV**, Program Director, Center for Study of Democracy, Sofia / SELDI Knowledge and Outreach Coordinator
- **Mr. Ismar MILAK**, Project Coordinator and Media Analyst, ZaštoNe, Sarajevo
- **Mr. Petar VIDOV**, Editor-in-Chief, Faktograph, Zagreb
- **Mr. Misha POPOVIKJ**, Head of the Center for Good Governance, Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis - IDSCS, Skopje
- **Mr. Srđan MAJSTOROVIĆ**, Chairman of the Governing Board, European Policy Center - CEP, Belgrade / Member of BiEPAG

Moderator: Mr. Aleksandar KRŽALOVSKI, Director, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, Skopje / SELDI Coordinator

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch Break

13.30 – 14.15 Thematic discussion 1: *Tackling the sources of corruption and state capture: illicit financial flows and the hidden economy*

The session will make an overview of how the region can build democratic resilience by removing some of the key enablers of illicit finance and related to them corruption, state capture and authoritarian influence. It will discuss how civil society could work jointly and support the governments in launching public reforms or measures to help attract more constructive capital to build a democracy that delivers in times of increasing geopolitical uncertainties.

- **Ms. Vanya PETROVA**, Senior Analyst, Economic Program, Center for Study of Democracy, Sofia
- **Ms. Tena PRELEC**, Research Associate at the Department of Politics, and International Relations (DPIR), University of Oxford, Oxford / Member of BiEPAG
- **Mr. Mahir POLJIĆ**, Project Coordinator, Centers for Civic Initiatives, Sarajevo
- **Mr. Ilija DJUGUMANOV**, Secretary General, Euro-Atlantic Council, Skopje
- **Ms. Dorjeta RUKIQI**, Research Assistant, Kosovo Centre for Security Studies, Pristina

Moderator: Ms. Daniela MINEVA, Senior Analyst, Center for Study of Democracy, Sofia

14.15 – 15.00 Thematic discussion 2: *Supporting judicial reforms*

This session will summarise the lessons learned from past and ongoing judicial reforms in the region, as well as provide policy recommendations for the planned future judicial changes. The discussion will highlight how improvement in the judiciary independence and efficiency could increase the trust in the public institutions and decrease the state capture phenomenon.

- **Ms. Jovana SPREMO**, Advisor specialised for EU integration related policies, Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights - YUCOM, Belgrade
- **Ms. Biljana PAPOVIĆ**, Deputy Executive Director, Center for Democratic Transition, Podgorica
- **Ms. Aneta ARNAUDOVSKA**, Senior Anti-corruption Advisor, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative
- **Mr. Tobias FLESSENKEMPER**, Head of Office, The Council of Europe, Belgrade

Moderator: Mr. Filip LUKIĆ, EU Info Center, Belgrade

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee Break

15.15 – 16.00 Thematic discussion 3: State of Democracy and Media Capture in the Western Balkans

The session will examine the state of affairs regarding the state of democracy and media freedom in the Western Balkans. The panellists will examine the ways to increase the focus on democracy within the EU accession negotiations, as well as discuss the main problems regarding media freedom in the region, from the impact of disinformation on democracy.

- **Mr. Nikola BURAZER**, Programme Director, Centre for Contemporary Politics, Belgrade
- **Mr. Florian BIEBER**, Director, Center for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz / Member of BIEPAG
- **Ms. Jasna JELISIĆ**, Head of Western Balkans Task Force, EEAS, European Commission, Brussels
- **Mr. Goran GEORGIEV**, Analyst, Center for the Study of Democracy, Sofia

Moderator: **Ms. Aleksandra TOMANIĆ**, Executive Director of the European Fund for the Balkans, Belgrade

16.00 – 16.10 Closing Remarks

The working languages of the Regional Policy Forum are English and Serbian.