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Western Balkans The futures of integration

*Conference organised by
the **NATO Defense College Foundation**
in cooperation with
the **Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union** and the **Balkan Trust for Democracy***

ROME, 7th-8th October 2014

Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Piazzale della Farnesina, 1
Sala delle Conferenze Internazionali

Draft Agenda

TUESDAY, 7TH OCTOBER

14,30-15,00 Arrival of participants - Registration

15,00 Welcome remarks

- **Amb. Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome *
- **Amb. Luigi Mattiolo**, DG European Union, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome *

Opening remarks

- **Zoran Jolevski**, Minister of Defence of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Skopje *

15,30-17,00

SESSION 1
REGIONAL COOPERATION: ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

From post-war societies to a truly regional co-operation. The role of security and of the economy in shaping this new landscape. Perspectives for a genuine political dialogue towards European integration. Italy's contribution to the stability and prosperity of the Western Balkans.

Chair: **Vincenzo Nigro**, Journalist, La Repubblica, Rome *

- **Solomon Passy**, President, Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, Sofia *
- **Petar Mihatov**, Head of Sector for International Defense Cooperation and Security, Ministry of Defense, Zagreb *
- **Andrei Tarnea**, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Romania, Bucharest *
- **Fernando Gentilini**, Director for Western Europe, Western Balkans and Turkey, European External Action Service, Brussels *

General Discussion

17,00-17,30

Coffee/Tea break

17,30-19,00

SESSION 2
THE SERBIA-KOSOVO DEAL: A TURNING POINT?

The Serbia-Kosovo agreement as a case study. The European soft power in the Western Balkans: incentives and responsibilities; strengths and limits. The open questions and the evolving practices regarding majorities and minorities, togetherness and separation. How can national issues be transformed in the region?

Chair: **Gordana Delic**, Director, Balkan Trust for Democracy, Belgrade *

- **Anton Bebler**, President, Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia, Ljubljana *
- **Jelena Milic**, Director, Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies, Belgrade *
- **Denis Hadzović**, Secretary General, Center for Security Studies, Sarajevo *
- **Florian Qehaja**, Executive Director, Kosovar Centre for Security Studies, Pristine *

General discussion

WEDNESDAY, 8TH OCTOBER

9,15 Arrival of participants

9,30 Opening remarks

- **Vladimir Radulović**, State Secretary for Political Affairs, Republic of Montenegro, Podgorica*

9,45-11,15

SESSION 3 NATO AND EUROPE: THE STATE OF THE INTEGRATION

The European process of enlargement after Croatia's accession, looking at the future and at the timetables. The candidates: positive and negative aspects. NATO's view on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and others. The evolving Turkish role in the region.

Chair: **Stefano Silvestri**, Former President, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome *

- **Christophe Solioz**, Political Analyst, former Secretary General of the Centre for European Integration, Geneva *
- **Albert Rakipi**, Executive Director, Albanian Institute for International Studies, Tirana *
- **Dusan Fischer**, Research Fellow, Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava *
- **Sonja Licht**, President, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, Belgrade *

General Discussion

11,15-11,45 Coffee/Tea break

11,45-13,15

SESSION 4 UNFINISHED BUSINESS? THE BOSNIAN ISSUE

From Dayton to a "cold peace" featuring a fragile federal structure where different "Bosnias" coexist. This political uncertainty has obvious social repercussions that risk perpetuating an inherently unstable arrangement. The issue revolves around the transition towards a wider European role in supporting social and political changes in a meaningful way.

Chair: **Istvan Gyarmati**, President, International Centre for Democratic Transition, Budapest *

- **Goran Svilanovic**, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo *
- **Wolfgang Petritsch**, President, Austrian Marshall Foundation, Vienna *
- **Ahmet Evin**, Professor, Sabanci University Policy Institute, Istanbul *
- **Srdan Dizdarevic**, President, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Sarajevo *

General discussion

13,20

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Hon. **Benedetto Della Vedova**, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of Italy *

* Confirmed

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