



Society

WB2EU: Status quo is no longer providing stability in the WB

by EWB 25. 03. 2021.

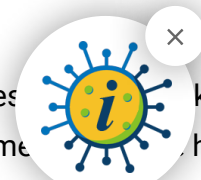


Protest in front of the National Assembly on 10 July; Photo: FoNet

Status quo is no longer providing stability in the Western Balkans. The EU should focus more on small victories in order to gain long-term goals, it was concluded during the panel “How to get EU enlargement back on track? Prioritising rule of law and judicial reform”, organised by the “WB2EU network”.

Nikola Dimitrov, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs of North Macedonia, said that many years ago the enlargement process resembled the highway, then it became small, now it is very tiny and it is uphill.

„The goal of the accession process is not to bring Europe at home, but to bring Europe at home where we can have the European way of life. There is no magical stick on the rule of law. This year we mark



20 years since we signed the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and we mark 16 years as candidate country. All this waiting time is very challenging," said Dimitrov.



He added that there is an issue with credibility on the part of the EU.

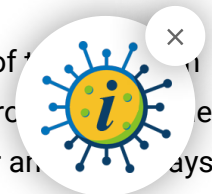
“ „I think this reflects not only in our case, but lessons are being learned in the capitols of the Western Balkans. We are talking about the region that does not simply border the EU, it is encircled with the blue flag with yellow stars. However, I think that the region is also behind on the delivery of the reforms. We have to make this region properly European in terms of the values of Europe,” Dimitrov pointed out.

Karoline Edtstadler, Federal Minister for EU and Constitution of Austria, said that she does not see the current situation regarding the enlargement process as negative.

„I think we achieved a lot last year. We were already in the middle of this pandemic when we decided to go further with the enlargement process. It is a question of credibility and security for the EU that we bring the Western Balkans closer to the EU with the goal of membership in the EU,” Edtstadler highlighted.

She added that the EU needs a more political, strategic approach to the EU enlargement process and that a clear perspective should be given to the Western Balkans.

Katarina Barley, Vice President of the European Parliament, stressed that the European Council has always been extremely clear and consistent in its approach.



taken a side for the accession countries in all of the disputes.

“ **„I think we have to really put this into a bigger picture, because the frustration of the accession countries is a part of the process that does not only concerns the accession process, we are witnessing developments within the EU that are extremely worrying and also frustrating to some of us,” said Barley.**

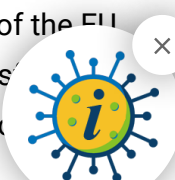
She underlined that when you make promises you have to keep them.

„Once you raise expectations you have to meet them. What we have seen especially with North Macedonia and Albania is that the EU has not raised to these expectations and it has not kept the promises that it made. The European Parliament works as much as it can to support the accession process”, stressed Barley.

Jovana Marović, Executive Director of Politikon Network in Montenegro, said that it is obvious that the Western Balkans’ perspective of the enlargement process is different than the EU’s.

S&
D,
Re
ne
w
Eur
op
e
an
d
Gre
ens
rea
ct
to
the
EP
Re
por
ts
on

„I think that the two most important questions about the EU enlargement are whether the EU is still interested to help with the democratisation of the Western Balkans and is there anything left of the EU to transition to the „new power”, Marović said. Without a clear vision of where the



Western Balkans

EP Report on Serbia: Greater dynamism is needed in the accession negotiations

[EWB Interview] Von Cra mon: Visa liberalisation very damaging to EU reputation in Kosovo,

enlargement process is leading, she said, and without engagement from the EU level, I do not see that we will achieve a certain level of democratisation in the meantime.

Barley added that “we as a European Union should not tell neither member states nor accession countries what exactly they have to do, because that is not the way it works, as we can see in Poland and Hungary”.





“ „The question is do you accept that separation of powers, the rule of law and democracy means that you as a government are being controlled and that you are being criticized“, Barley concluded.

The panel was organized within the “WB2EU network” is a long-term project gathering 17 think tanks and academic institutions from the Western Balkans and the EU and lasting until 2023.

The project aims to establish “WB2EU network”, which shall become a reference point in the area of EU enlargement and democratisation efforts to the Western Balkan countries.

The network will focus on gathering information and research results on EU enlargement, supporting civic democratic engagement through the publication of a series of policy briefs and op-eds in major media outlets in all partner countries and fostering cooperation and creating a high knowledge exchange platform with public actors.

EU ENLARGEMENT	EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	
JOVANA MAROVIĆ	KAROLINE EDTSTADLER	
KATARINA BARLEY	NIKOLA DIMITROV	RULE OF LAW
WB2EU	WESTERN BALKANS	



< PREVIOUS POST

NEXT POST

Application of the new methodology to Montenegro and Serbia: Principles remain the same, more emphasis on interim benchmarks

[EWB Interview] Santos: EP Report on Albania is positive and shows that progress has been made

RELATED POSTS

Belgrade Pride: Serbia will respects the rights of all citizens

[BSF] Belgrade Security Forum 2018 starts today

Open letter of NCEU representative s of states participating on the Sofia summit

FROM THE WEB



Oglas



Renault is quitting ICE cars in China

[Fotos] Das ist die Frau von Florian Silbereisen mit...

Polestar offers a sight in the future



Ford has built the ultimate electric drag racing car

The new MINI John Cooper Works GP

The new Volkswagen Arteon Shooting Brake...





Electric shock straight out from China

Preporučuje ContentExchange 

POPULAR POSTS

The Netherlands opposes starting EU negotiations with Albania

13. 06. 2019.

AMSTERDAM – Dutch Parliament voted against opening of accession negotiations between EU and...





EU and the Western Balkans in 2020: The...

Event: Regional cooperation in the field of migration

Grenell retweets Perdue: US should reconsider its presence...

Serbia to participate in the third phase of...



EWB

European Western Balkans is a web portal that focuses on the WB countries and reports on development of the EU's enlargement policy. The portal is launched in 2014 by the Centre for Contemporary Politics.

[See author's posts](#)





SOCIAL MEDIA



7,782 Followers



LATEST TWEETS

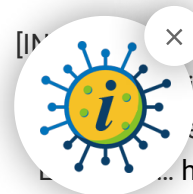


.@TheProgressives, @RenewEurope and @GreensEFA react to the EP Reports on Western Balkans
<https://t.co/wh4bEK8eNR>

26-03-2021

The @Europarl_EN adopted a Report on [IN] #Serbia in which it stressed the importance of injecting more dynamism into th...
<https://t.co/CDqmSC6l38>

26-03-2021



this R... ing ma... ent #K...
<https://...>

26-03

[Reply](#) / [Retweet](#) / [Favorite](#)

[Reply](#) / [Retweet](#) / [Favorite](#)

[Reply](#) / [R](#)



INSTAGRAM

No any image found. Please check it again or try with another instagram account.

European Western Balkans is a web portal that focuses on the Western Balkans countries and reports on the development of the EU's enlargement policy. The portal was launched in 2014 by the Centre for Contemporary Politics.

