



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

As of 7.09.2018

Interparliamentary Conference
TRANSFORMING THE WESTERN BALKANS REGION -
A parliamentary perspective on the role and the future
of EU accession process

with Members of the European Parliament
and the Pre-Accession Countries' Parliaments

Organised by the **European Parliament**
(Democracy Support and Election Co-ordination Group
in cooperation with the Committee on Foreign Affairs)

and the **National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria**

Sofia, 5 October 2018

Venue : National Palace of Culture (NDK)

Sofia (Bulgaria)

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROGRAMME

8:45 – 9:00 Registration

In the Chair:	Mr/Ms, MP, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria(<i>tbc</i>) <i>and</i> Mr/Ms, MEP, European Parliament (<i>tbd</i>)
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9:00 – 9:30 Opening of the Interparliamentary Conference:

Ms Tsveta Karayancheva, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr. /Ms....., Representative of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria (*tbc*)

Ms Lívia Járóka, Vice- President of the European Parliament

9:30 –10:45 EU – Western Balkans Summit, Sofia priority agenda, Berlin process Summit and the way ahead: continuing support for Western Balkans EU accession process

Ms Dzhema Grozdanova, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

Representative of the National Council / the Federal Council of Austria (*tbc*)

Representative of the Chamber of Deputies/ the Senate of Romania (*tbc*)

Representative of the Senate/Sejm of Poland (next host of BP Summit)(*tbc*)

Ms Ekaterina Zaharieva, Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

Exchange of views

10:45 – 11:15 Family photo and coffee break

In the Chair:	Mr/Ms, MP, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria(<i>tbc</i>) <i>and</i> Mr/Ms, MEP, European Parliament (<i>tbd</i>)
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11:15 – 12:30 The role of National Parliaments and the European Parliament for strengthening the European perspective of the Western Balkans

Mr/Ms, MEP, European Parliament

Representatives of EU national parliaments

Representatives of Western Balkans parliaments

Representative of the European Commission /EEAS

Exchange of views

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch hosted by the National Assembly of Bulgaria (place tbd)

In the Chair:	Mr/Ms, MP, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria <i>(tbc)</i> <i>and</i> Mr/Ms, MEP, European Parliament <i>(tbd)</i>
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14:15 – 15:30 Transformative effect of EU accession process on the region – challenges and achievements

Mr/Ms, MEP, European Parliament

Representatives of Western Balkans parliaments

WB6 Advocacy Group representatives:
European Movement, Serbia
Albanian Institute for international studies
Foreign policy Initiative, Bosnia and Herzegovina
European Movement in Montenegro
Kosovo Civil Society Foundation
European Policy Institute – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Exchange of views

15:30 – 16:45 Importance of interparliamentary and regional cooperation for speeding up reforms in EU acceding countries

Mr/Ms, MEP, European Parliament

MP, Representative of SEECP PA /RCC(*tbc*)

MP, Representative of Visegrad 4(*tbc*)

MP, Representative of the Baltic Assembly(*tbc*)

Mr. Gjergj Murra, Executive Director, Western Balkans Fund

Exchange of views

16:45 – 17:00 Concluding remarks

Departure of participants