

Invitation & Agenda

We Need to Talk!

Mercator European Dialogue x Western Balkans

MP-Led Initiative

6 - 7 December 2019 – Vienna

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HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

Dear Member of Parliament,

We cordially invite you to take part in the MP-Led initiative "We need to talk! Mercator European Dialogue x Western Balkans". Our workshop on the topic will take place in Vienna on 6 - 7 December 2019. This exchange has been initiated by network members Carmen-Jeitler Cincelli from the Parliament of Austria and Ágnes Vadai from the Parliament of Hungary, and we would be honored if you were to join us.

This activity, in the framework of the Mercator European Dialogue, will provide an informal space for shared conversations in a trusting environment under the Chatham House rule. A select group of decision-makers from EU Member States and the Western Balkans will have the opportunity to exchange views and perspectives on how they imagine their relations in the years to come.

In recent years, the debate on EU enlargement in the Western Balkans has become contentious. Discussions over whether more countries should be granted accession has broken out amongst the EU institutions, but also between EU Member States. At the same time, the relationship between the EU and some Western Balkans countries is experiencing a rapid erosion of trust.

Together with high-level experts, participants will hear first-hand about the concerns and expectations of their colleagues on what the main challenges in the future of Europe and enlargement debates are.

Thanks to an interactive programme, MPs from across Europe will have the opportunity to engage in a joint reflection on the most crucial policy challenges in the field of European integration.

We would be honored to have you with us and hope to see you soon in Vienna.

Kind regards,

Michael Schwarz
Stiftung Mercator

Stefan Schäfers
KBF

Jan Techau
GMF

Chiara Rosselli
GMF

Nathalie Tocci
IAI

George Pagoulatos
ELIAMEP

Pol Morillas
CIDOB

For more information about the project, please visit

mercatoreuropeandialogue.org

AGENDA

Friday, December 6

- 18:30** **Arrival and orientation**
- Imperial Riding School Renaissance Vienna Hotel
Ungargasse 60, 1030 Vienna
- 19:45 Dinner
- Zur Steirischen Botschaft“
Strohgasse 11, 1030 Vienna

Saturday, December 7

- 8:40 Registration
- 9:00** **Session 1 – Framing the dialogue: the role of enlargement policy in European integration**
- Expert input: Ivan Vejvoda, Permanent Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences; former Senior Vice President for Programs, the German Marshall Fund of the United States
- 9:40** **Session 2 – Understanding perspectives from Western Balkan countries**
- Expert input: Florian Bieber, Coordinator, BiEPAG; professor of Southeast European History and Politics and Director of the Centre for Southeast European Studies at the University of Graz
- 10:50 Coffee break
- 11:10** **Session 3 – Understanding perspectives from EU Member States**
- Expert input: Corinna Stratulat, Senior Policy Analyst and the Head of the European Politics and Institutions Programme at the European Policy Centre (EPC)
- 12:50 Lunch
- 13:40** **Session 4 – Identifying key issues areas offering the possibility for progress**
- Expert input: Ioannis Armakolas, Senior Research Fellow at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy and Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics of South East Europe at the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia.
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 15:50** **Wrap up – Moving forward: pledges and MPs as drivers of change**
- 17:30 Close

REGISTRATION

We would be grateful if you registered at your earliest convenience and no later than Friday, 8 November. Please register with Evelyn Karakatsani at events@eliamep.gr. More detailed information will follow.

EXPENSES

Travel and accommodation costs are borne by the Mercator European Dialogue, unless you specifically wish to pay for yourself. Please note that we can only cover economy class flights.

CONTACTS

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JOINING FORCES IN THE MERCATOR EUROPEAN DIALOGUE

STIFTUNG
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Stiftung Mercator is a private and independent foundation. Through its work it strives for a society characterized by openness to the world, solidarity and equal opportunities. In this context it concentrates on strengthening Europe; increasing the educational success of disadvantaged children and young people, especially those of migrant origin; driving forward climate change mitigation and promoting science and the humanities.

The King Baudouin Foundation's mission is to contribute to a better society. The Foundation is an actor for change and innovation, serving the public interest and increasing social cohesion in Belgium and Europe. We seek to maximize our impact by strengthening the capacity of organizations and individuals. We also stimulate effective philanthropy by individuals and corporations. The Foundation's key values are integrity, transparency, pluralism, independence, respect for diversity, and promoting solidarity.

Stiftung Mercator symbolizes the connection between academic expertise and practical project experience. One of Germany's leading foundations, it is active both nationally and internationally. Stiftung Mercator feels a strong sense of loyalty to the Ruhr region, the home of the founding family and the foundation's headquarters.

The Foundation's current areas of activity are poverty and social justice, philanthropy, health, civic engagement, developing talents, democracy, European integration, heritage and development cooperation.

The King Baudouin Foundation is a public benefit foundation. The Foundation was set up in 1976 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.



The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan. GMF contributes research and analysis and convenes leaders on transatlantic issues relevant to policymakers. GMF offers rising leaders opportunities to develop their skills and networks through transatlantic exchange, and supports civil society in the Balkans and Black Sea regions by fostering democratic initiatives, rule of law, and regional cooperation.

Founded in 1972 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has offices in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, Bucharest, and Warsaw. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.



The Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) was founded on 11 October 1965 on the initiative of Altiero Spinelli. The Institute's main objective is to promote an understanding of the problems of international politics through studies, research, meetings and publications, with the aim of increasing the opportunities of all countries to move in the direction of supranational organization, democratic freedom and social justice (IAI Bylaws, Article 1). It's main research

areas include: EU Institutions and Politics, the EU's Global Role, Turkey and the Neighborhood, International Political Economy, Mediterranean and Middle East, Transatlantic Relations, Security and Defence, Italian Foreign Policy, Energy. A non-profit organization, the IAI is funded by individual and corporate members, public and private organizations, major international foundations, and by a standing grant from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) is an independent and plural think tank based in Barcelona, dedicated to the study, research and analysis of international affairs. Created in 1973 as an International Documentation Centre of Barcelona, it is a private foundation since 1979. CIDOB promotes global governance and good practices – based on local, national and European democratic government – to ensure that people possess the basic elements to

live their lives free from fear and in liberty, by facilitating a dialogue that includes all diversities and which actively defends human rights and gender equality. CIDOB is a dynamic community of analytics that works to produce and offer to all political actors – from individual citizens to international organizations – information and ideas to formulate and promote policies for a more secure, free and fair world for everyone.



ELIAMEP is an independent, non-profit and policy-oriented research and training institute. It neither expresses, nor represents, any specific political party view. It is only devoted to the right of free and well-documented discourse.

ELIAMEP's mission is to provide a forum for public debate on issues of European integration and international relations to conduct scientific research that contributes to a better informed and documented knowledge of the European and international environment.