

*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**

<b>In the Chair:</b>	<b>Mr/Ms</b> ....., MP, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria( <i>tbc</i> ) <i>and</i> <b>Mr/Ms</b> ....., MEP, European Parliament ( <i>tbd</i> )
----------------------	--

**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**

<b>In the Chair:</b>	<b>Mr/Ms</b> ....., MP, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria( <i>tbc</i> ) <i>and</i> <b>Mr/Ms</b> ....., MEP, European Parliament ( <i>tbd</i> )
----------------------	--

**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)**

<b>In the Chair:</b>	<b>Mr/Ms.....</b> , MP, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria <i>(tbc)</i> <i>and</i> <b>Mr/Ms .....</b> , MEP, European Parliament <i>(tbd)</i>
----------------------	---

**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***