

EU - Western Balkans relations

February 2020 #EUenlargement

2020: a key year for the EU-Western Balkans relations

Revised methodology to drive the enlargement process forward with a stronger political steer and in a more credible, predictable, dynamic way

Council to decide on opening of accession talks with **North Macedonia** and **Albania**



Commission proposals to further the EU-Western Balkans agenda with a strong focus on **economic development**

EU-Western Balkans Summit in Zagreb

Overview of the EU relations with the Western Balkans

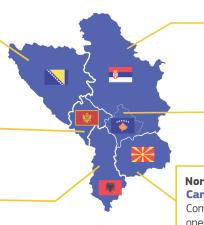
Bosnia and Herzegovina – Population: 3.5 million Potential candidate Commission Opinion on EU membership application in May 2019; EU Council conclusions endorsing the 14 key priorities in Dec 2019.

Montenegro - Population: 0.6 million Candidate country

Opened chapters - 32 Provisionally closed chapters - 3

Albania – Population: 2.9 million Candidate country

Commission recommends opening accession negotiations.



Serbia - Population: 7 million
Candidate country
Opened chapters - 18
Provisionally closed chapters -2

Kosovo*– Population: 1.8 million **Potential candidate**

In April 2016, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement entered into force.

North Macedonia – Population: 2.1 million **Candidate country**

Commission recommends opening accession negotiations.

Economic potential of the EU relations with the Western Balkans



€12.7 billion

Foreign Direct Investments in 2014-2018. EU companies are the biggest investors in the Western Balkans



Western Balkans is a market of

18 million consumers



€54 billion

in trade between the EU and the Western Balkans in 2018

Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence