

EU - Western Balkans relations

March 2020 #EUenlargement

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

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

Council decided, subject to endorsement by the European Council members, to open accession negotiations 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**

March 2020: Council decides to open 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

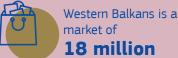
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Economic potential of the EU relations with the Western Balkans



€12.7 billion

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





€54 billion

in trade between the EU and the Western Balkans in 2018

Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

consumers

* 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