The EU enlargement policy is a **geo-strategic investment** in Europe’s peace, security, stability and prosperity. Russia’s aggression against Ukraine underlines the need to accelerate the accession process of the Western Balkans.

The EU will continue its **strong political, technical, and financial support to all six Western Balkan partners**, to help them advance key political, institutional, social and economic reforms that are necessary to progress on their path toward the EU.

**The EU is the biggest investor and trading partner in the Western Balkans**

EU companies are by far the **leading investors**, accounting for **59% of total FDI** in the region in 2022.

EU accounts for **almost 70%** of the region’s total trade in 2022.

Under the **Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans**, the EU supports the post pandemic socio-economic recovery of the region and helps the region closing the development gap with the EU.

Since its launch, the EU has approved funding of €5.4 billion in grants and is expected to mobilise €17.4 billion in overall investments. This includes funding for **68 flagship projects** under Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF).