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The Regional Conference supported by the European Commission stressed the importance of the reform process in the Region.  Deputy Prime Minister Fatmir Besimi, the Chief of European Union Delegation in Skopje, H.E. Aivo Orav and the Deputy Ambassador of FR Germany, Mr. Sander had opening remarks at the Conference.  Representatives and teams of experts from the region, the European Commission, EU ambassadors in the country, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Assembly and representatives of the Secretariat for European Affairs participated at the Conference.  The discussions focused on the new Enlargement Strategy and on the European Commission progress reports for this year, as well as the new recalibrated methodology for their preparation.  [AGENDA](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001xBuXyDrCf_kdVlxkAXEKEBxWgOl-HGEXySjC4Fmd5dUdCr2TzLDe6R6yPx0jKPFusmz50qyt7yjv9yT7u99aeHNm2IfpCzIiHIqOhcwAHohIn6-EDxvloWctlEViYYmBX_z3WHy4zcY3wt3SsZU4jA==) |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/1101116784221/S.gif | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mlsvc01-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/4f6971d8301/904bd10e-4ec2-4571-86e1-56bd4db9411d.jpg | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mlsvc01-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/4f6971d8301/8fd819eb-4535-40dc-ac75-9eab055fb44d.jpg | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mlsvc01-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/4f6971d8301/33e9511f-8b8a-4c72-aa04-05379c741a46.jpg | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mlsvc01-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/4f6971d8301/d2739c9e-658e-4590-a2b7-504f9213d2f1.jpg | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/1101116784221/S.gif | |  |  | | --- | | **Concluding remarks** |  |  | | --- | | The Western Balkan Accession Reform initiative aims at bringing together high level representatives from the relevant national institutions dealing with the EU integration process and the representatives from the European Commission to discuss jointly the enlargement package and the new methodology. EU member states' Ambassadors also participated in the conference. During the panel discussions the participants focused on the new enlargement strategy and the new generation of the country reports as well as the new recalibrated reporting methodology.   * The importance of the enlargement policy for the peace, stability and long term economic development for the countries from the Region was acknowledged. Participants agreed that the European perspective of the region proved to be the only viable means for long-lasting stabilization and prosperity of the Balkans.Joint efforts are needed to keep the credibility of the enlargement process as the best response to the challenges ahead: security/migration, strengthening the democratic institutions and economic development. * In this regard participants fully supported the European Commission continued efforts to strengthen the credibility of the enlargement policy through extending its comprehensive new approach on addressing fundamentals first on rule of law, economic governance and public administration as well as putting much more emphasis on the state of play in the countries and where they stand in terms of preparedness for taking on the obligations of membership as well as giving clear guidance on what the countries are expected to do in both the short and long term. * The participants strongly emphasized the role of regional cooperation for the EU integration process of the Western Balkans, considering the WBAR initiative as a follow up to the Berlin process and the Vienna summit as well as a contribution to the forthcoming Paris and Rome summits/events, seeing it as a tool for discussing common challenges and exchanging experience on the EU accession reforms. * Proposals were given for establishing a more permanent form of regional cooperation including high level regional meeting after the publication of the country reports on annual basis as well as more frequent expert level meetings during the year. * Participants supported the new reporting methodology as well as the assessment of the level of preparedness and progress providing possibility for identifying common challenges and developing ways to address them. * The available instruments during the course of the EU integration process, such as HLAD, IPA and other instruments represent useful mechanisms which will help us to successfully implement obligations that are part of the integration process in cooperation with our partners from the European Commission. * Participants expressed the need for closer cooperation with the European Commission and its services especially in preparing the countries' contributions and developing measures for implementation of the reforms. In addition the need for joint communication activities was expressed. * Finally, participants agreed to extend the participation in this initiative by including other relevant stakeholders. * With this we conclude the High-Level Regional Conference WBAR 2015 in Skopje and announce that the next WBAR 2016 will be organized in Podgorica. |  |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/1101116784221/S.gif |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/1101116784221/S.gif | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/1101116784221/S.gif | | | |

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