



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Brussels, 24 May 2017

NOTICE OF MEETING

WORKING GROUP ON RELATIONS WITH WESTERN BALKANS

Meeting No	20
Chair	Franz SCHAUSBERGER (AT/EPP) Representative of the Province of Salzburg
Venue	European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 101, 1040 Brussels (room JDE 51)
Date	31 May 2017
Interpreting	DE/EN/Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian/SQ (listening into) FR/DE/EN/Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian/SQ (speaking)

Draft agenda:

2.30 – 2.50 p.m.

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Approval of the minutes** of the 19th meeting held in Gjilan, Kosovo¹ (COR-2016-06476-00-00-INFO-EDI)
- 3. Statement by the chair**

Franz Schausberger (AT/EPP), chair of the Working Group on Western Balkans

2.50 – 4.15 p.m.

- 4. EU – Albania and EU - Bosnia and Herzegovina relations: recent developments and impact on sub-national authorities**

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on the status of Kosovo, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

For the European Committee of the Regions, the role of local and regional representatives in the enlargement process is fundamental by illustrating the benefits of EU membership and encouraging people to make use of the instruments offered by the EU. Furthermore, the enlargement process should be an inclusive exercise, involving all of society.

Suela Janina, Ambassador, Head of Mission of Albania to the EU

Georg Ziegler, Deputy Head of Unit, Unit Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

Ljubiša Ćosić, President of the Association of Local Authorities of the Republic of Srpska

Semir Efendić, Mayor of Novi Grad Sarajevo

4.15 – 4.30 p.m. Coffee break

4.30 – 5.50 p.m.

5. Promoting entrepreneurship at regional and local level

The Western Balkans face high unemployment, particularly among youth. Entrepreneurs play a vital role in job creation and providing opportunities to young people, while local and regional authorities have a specific role to play in fostering entrepreneurship. This session will look at recent developments and illustrative case studies, providing the opportunity to react to the recently published country-specific assessments of the European Commission on the annual Economic Reform Programmes (ERPs).

Naim Ismajli, President of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities

Blerina Guga, Director of the Association of Albanian Regional Councils

Fuad Kasumović, Mayor of Zenica

5.50 – 6 p.m.

6. Any other business
