



**European Committee
of the Regions**



Brussels, 26 April 2019

NOTICE OF MEETING

Joint Consultative Committee CoR - North Macedonia

Meeting No	16
Co-Chairs	Jasna GABRIČ Mayor of the Municipality of Trbovlje Blagoj BOCHVARSKI Mayor of Municipality of Shtip
Venue	VMA 3
Date	18 June 2019
Interpreting	EN/EL/SL /MK/SQ (participants may speak in their own language) EN/EL/MK/SL (participants may listen in)

3 p.m.

1. Opening

Jasna GABRIČ (SI/ALDE), Mayor of the Municipality of Trbovlje

Blagoj BOCHVARSKI, Mayor of Municipality of Shtip

- Adoption of the draft agenda (COR-2019-01988-00-00-CONVPOJ-REF)
- Approval of the minutes of the 15th meeting (COR-2019-01290-00-00-PV-REF)

3.20 p.m.

2. **EU-North Macedonia relations: Recent developments and impact on sub-national authorities**

Suhejl FAZLIU, Minister for Local Self-government (tbc)

H.E. Agneza Rusi POPOVSKA, Head of Mission of the Republic of North Macedonia to the EU

Ivo VAJGL (SI/ALDE), Member of the European Parliament (tbc)

Petre SHILEGOV, Mayor of Skopje, President of ZELS, President of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)

David CULLEN, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission

4.30 p.m. Coffee break

4.50 p.m.

3. **Thematic debate: Strengthening good governance**

Amidst growing criticism that EU enlargement and democratisation are no longer seen as two parallel processes in the Balkans, the EU's renewed approach to the Western Balkan accession process envisages opening rule of law Chapters 23 and 24 at the outset, which will allow increased monitoring of fundamental rights during the accession talks and more targeted support to accompany the aspiring members on their paths to stable and prosperous democracies governed by the rule of law. Inter alia, gender equality is an essential element in making the democratic transformation of a country more resilient, thus a prerequisite for accession.

This session would look at the good-governance-at-all-levels/accession-negotiations nexus.

Biljana BORZAN (HR/S&D), Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur for Women's Rights (tbc)

NN – **MK expert** (tbd)

NN - DG NEAR, European Commission (tbd)

6.20 p.m.

4. **Any other business**

5. **Closing remarks**

Blagoj BOCHVARSKI, Mayor of Municipality of Shtip

Jasna GABRIČ (SI/ALDE), Mayor of the Municipality of Trbovlje

6.30 p.m. - End of meeting

N.B. for CoR members only:

Only members of this JCC and alternates delegated to attend the meeting will be entitled to travel and subsistence payments.

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