



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Brussels, 7 June 2019

**NOTICE OF MEETING
WORKING GROUP ON RELATIONS WITH WESTERN BALKANS**

Meeting No **24**
Chair **Franz SCHAUSBERGER (AT/EPP)**
 Representative of the Province of Salzburg
Venue European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 101, 1040 Brussels
 (room JDE60)
Date 18 June 2019
Interpreting DE/EL/EN/FR/BS (listening into)
 DE/EL/EN/BS (speaking)

3–3.15 p.m.

1. **Adoption of the agenda** (COR-2019-02444-00-00-CONVPOJ-REF)
2. **Approval of the minutes** of the 23rd meeting held in Tirana (COR-2019-01271-00-00-PV-REF)
3. **Statement by the Chair**

3.15–4.30 p.m.

4. **EU – Bosnia and Herzegovina relations: recent developments**

- Mrs **Miranda Sidran**, Charge d’Affaires a.i., Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union

- Mr **Georg Ziegler**, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission, Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Unit D4 (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

- H.E. **Igor Davidovic**, former Ambassador; Vice-President, East-West Bridge, Sarajevo

- Ms **Mirela Bubalo**, President, Commission for International Relations, Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Commission issued on 29 May 2019 its Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the EU, together with a report that reviews the situation in the country against standards applicable to EU Member States. The Commission considers that negotiations for accession should be opened once Bosnia and Herzegovina has achieved the necessary degree of compliance with the membership criteria and in particular the political criteria requiring stability of institutions, guaranteeing notably democracy and rule of law. Bosnia and Herzegovina will need to fundamentally improve its legislative and institutional framework to ensure it meets a number of detailed priorities in the field of democracy, rule of law, fundamental rights and public administration reform.

4.30–4.45 p.m. Coffee break

4.45—6.15 p.m. **Thematic session: The Dayton Agreement - 24 years of complex governance in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Lessons learnt from the 2018 elections.**

- Introduction by Prof. **Franz Schausberger**, Chair of the Working Group, Special Advisor to Commissioner Johannes Hahn, European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
- A Statement on behalf of H.E. Ambassador **Valentin Inzko**, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Dr **Valery Perry**, Senior Associate, Democratization Policy Council, Sarajevo
- Dr **Nisida Gjoksi**, Policy Officer (Public Administration Reform), European Commission, Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Unit D4 (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

The Dayton Agreement has set the scene for the complex reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) after the war in the 1990s. Although the treaty brought peace, the complex structures of administration it set up in order to protect all sections of the population are not without problems. The difficulties in forming governments after the 2018 elections were an illustrative case. Are the Dayton structures still sufficient for peacetime government or have they outlived their usefulness? Is a reform necessary, in what regard, and how could it be achieved? Crucially, what is the impact of these high politics on local democracy which is the level closest to the citizen?

6.15–6.30 p.m. **Conclusion and any other business.**
