

European Commission

EU - Western Balkans relations

March 2020 #EUenlargement

2020: a key year for the EU-Western Balkans relations

Revised methodology endorsed to drive the enlargement process forward with a **stronger political steer** and in a more **credible**, **predictable**, **dynamic way**

Council decided, subject to endorsement by the



Commission proposals to further the EU-Western Balkans agenda with a strong focus on **economic development**

EU-Western Balkans Summit in Zagreb

European Council members, to open accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania

Overview of the EU relations with the Western Balkans

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Population: 3.5 million Potential candidate Commission Opinion on EU membership application in May 2019; EU Council conclusions endorsing the 14 key priorities in Dec 2019.

Montenegro - Population: 0.6 million Candidate country Opened chapters - 32 D Provisionally closed chapters - 3

Albania – Population: 2.9 million **Candidate country** March 2020: Council decides to open accession negotiations.



Serbia - Population: 7 million **Candidate country** Opened chapters - 18 []] Provisionally closed chapters -2

Kosovo*– Population: 1.8 million **Potential candidate** In April 2016, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement entered into force.

North Macedonia – Population: 2.1 million Candidate country March 2020: Council decides to open accession negotiations.

Economic potential of the EU relations with the Western Balkans

Neighbourhood

and Enlargement Negotiations



€12.7 billion

Foreign Direct Investments in 2014-2018. EU companies are the biggest investors in the Western Balkans Western Balkans is a market of **18 million** consumers



€54 billion in trade between the EU and the Western Balkans in 2018

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence