



EU-Western Balkans summit **Brdo Pri Kranju, Slovenia, 6 October 2021**

The EU-Western Balkans summit will bring together leaders from EU member states and the 6 Western Balkans partners: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia and Kosovo*.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia Janez Janša, will host the meeting. The summit will be chaired by the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, who will represent the EU together with the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. The EU High Representative, Josep Borrell, and the Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, Olivér Várhelyi will also join.

Representatives of the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank and the Regional Cooperation Council have been invited to join the plenary session.

The summit will be an occasion to reaffirm the **European perspective** of the Western Balkans, which is of mutual strategic interest and remains a shared strategic choice. It will also focus on the development of cooperation to foster the region's socio-economic recovery, in the context of **Covid-19 pandemic**, including vaccine deliveries. Leaders will discuss the implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, demonstrating the EU's **unparalleled support** to the region to generate more sustainable, green, digital and people-focused growth. The summit will also aim to further deepen **cooperation on political and security** matters of mutual concerns and to discuss how to strengthen regional cooperation.

The EU leaders are expected to adopt a declaration, with which the Western Balkans partners are invited to align themselves.

On the eve of the summit the EU leaders will meet for an informal dinner to discuss **the EU's role on the international stage**.

[EU-WB Summit webpage](#)

[Invitation letter](#)

Public events and press conferences by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu>

Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on:

<http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/photos>

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

* 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.

Indicative agenda

5 October 2021: Informal European Council working dinner

18.00 - Arrival of Heads of Delegations

18.30 - Informal working dinner of EU leaders

6 October 2021: EU-Western Balkans summit

08.50 - Arrivals to the Brdo Congress Centre and official welcome by Prime Minister Janez Janša

09.30 - Plenary session

10:45 - Family photo

11.15 - Leaders' session

13.30 - Press conference by Charles Michel, President of the European Council, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, Janez Janša, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia and individual leaders' briefings.

EU-Western Balkans relations

The EU and the Western Balkans share the responsibility to build a common future based on sustainability, prosperity, and democracy. The EU is and will remain the #1 partner of the region in terms of trade, assistance, investments and connectivity. The EU support will continue to be linked to tangible progress on the rule of law and socio-economic reforms.

The enlargement process is not on the summit agenda.

[EU-Western Balkans relations](#)

Economic and Investment Plan (EIP)

The historic **EIP** and **Green Agenda** mobilise some **€30 billion** for the region over the next 7 years. The EU will provide €9 billion worth of grant funding through 10 investment flagships. The EIP will also attract public and private investments backed by the Western Balkan Guarantee Facility, which has a potential to mobilise €20 billion.

The EIP will bring forward more sustainable, green, digital and people-focused growth, benefiting the region and Europe as a whole.

[The Economic and Investment Plan](#) (PDF)

[Economic and Investment Plan](#) (factsheet)

COVID-19

The Western Balkans have been the largest beneficiaries worldwide of EU assistance related to COVID-19, including on vaccines. The EU, together with its Member States, has stood by the Western Balkans throughout the pandemic, with health and socio-economic support totalling €3.3 billion for the region so far. By September 2021, the Western Balkans have received 2.9 million EU approved vaccines by the EU and its Member States. A close and effective partnership between the EU and the Western Balkans is necessary to address the societal and economic recovery.

[The EU support to Western Balkans on COVID-19](#)

[Infographic: COVID-19: over €3.3 billion support for the Western Balkans](#)

In the margins of the meeting

On the eve of the summit, President Michel has invited the EU leaders to an informal dinner. This dinner is part of the Leader's Agenda and will focus on **the EU's role on the international stage**, in light of recent developments in Afghanistan, the AUKUS security partnership and the evolution of our relations with China.