

EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy in cooperation with DG NEAR and Particip GmbH would like to cordially invite you to the event:

## Assessing the future of EU Enlargement in the Western Balkans and the current state of play

**13:00 - 16:00, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016**  
**People in Need Centre Langhans, Vodičkova 37, Prague 1**

*Speakers:*

**Simonida Kacarska**, President of EPI Assembly, European Policy Institute, Skopje

**Emir Vajzovic**, Programme Director at Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo

**Michal Vít**, Research Fellow, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

*Moderator:*

**Christian Kvorning Lassen**, Research Fellow, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Please register [here](#) by 27<sup>th</sup> November, or contact us via [europeum@europeum.org](mailto:europeum@europeum.org).

The EU Enlargement process in the Western Balkans is the main impetus for the vital reform processes necessary for these countries' continuous path towards EU membership. In this respect, the progress report is the highest authority on the efforts of these countries towards this end, and whether or not they are successful or backsliding. However, amidst various crises, EU support for Enlargement is seen as wavering amidst a plethora of crises, with enlargement perspectives slowing to a trickle for the Western Balkans. With the decision to henceforth publish the progress report biannually rather than annually, the enlargement process needs to be revitalized, the commitment of the EU needing to be reiterated in order to promote renewed incentives for the region in its long, arduous path towards implementing the necessary reforms that will eventually lead to membership of the EU.

This public event featuring experts from both the Western Balkans and the Czech Republic will strive to assess the state of play in the Western Balkans and their progress towards EU membership based on the release of the progress report. What are the future prospects of the region in regards to their aspirations towards EU membership? What steps, both immediate and long-term, need to be taken by the region in order to move things forward? What should the EU do in order to act as a dynamic partner in this process? What did the EU do in the past successfully back when the Czech Republic joined the EU? This public event hopes to energize the enlargement debate and provide some potential answers to the current stalemate.