

EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy invites you to the public discussion:

## How to restore trust in the EU enlargement policy in light of the contemporary challenges

**Monday, March 21, 14:00 – 17:00**  
**European house, Jungmannova 24, Prague**

*Speakers*

**Štefan Füle**, former Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy

**Marko Stojic**, Department of International Relations and European Studies, FSS MU

**Traian Urban**, Department of International Relations and European Studies, MUP

*Moderator*

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

Please **register here**, or contact us via [europeum@europeum.org](mailto:europeum@europeum.org).

The EU integration process is facing several significant internal and external challenges - ranging from the Greek debt crisis and the upcoming UK referendum on EU membership to the migration crisis and a resurgent Russia - that must be confronted amid a complex political and economic backdrop.

From being a key transformative tool in Central and East European countries, praised for its effectiveness and long-term positive effects, the enlargement policy has become a second-order issue attracting much less interest from both the EU and its member states than some 10, 15 years ago. Although enlargement has not stopped altogether, it has considerably slowed down under highly unfavourable circumstances for further EU expansion. At the same time, a growing number of voices within the EU argue for a more gradual and cautious approach to enlargement or even for postponing the accession of candidate countries until all new member states have been fully “absorbed”. Fifteen years after being recognised as potential candidates for membership of the EU, some Western Balkan countries have not even applied for membership, while those more advanced have experienced major obstacles in the process. Will the recent Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU membership application and the opening of the two EU negotiation chapters with Serbia give a new impetus to the enlargement process? Where does this leave one of the EU's historically most successful policies – the enlargement policy - and how can credibility in this policy be restored?



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