

## Scientific Conference

# The EU enlargement to the Western Balkans

**Wednesday, 10 May 2023, @17.00**

Amphitheater, Central Library Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
(ground floor of the Central Library, University Campus)

And online though Zoom:

<https://authgr.zoom.us/j/92947913493?pwd=S2o4bStrekZtcEtha0pHeDJhNHlyUT09>

[Meeting ID: 929 4791 3493 | Passcode: 250822]

## Programme

- 17.00 Arrival of participants and registration
- 17.30 Welcoming addresses  
**Panagiotis Glavinis**, Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
**Eugenia Sachpekidou**, Professor emeritus, Vice-President, Center for the European Legal Culture  
**Ioannis Papageorgiou**, professor, Chair of the Department of Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- 17.30 – 19.00 **“The EU enlargement and the impact on the Western Balkans”**  
(Moderator: *Ioannis Papageorgiou*)
- Dragan Tilev**, State Counselor for EU Affairs, and coordinator at the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia  
**Pedja Mitrovic**, consultant, policy analyst to the Government of Serbia  
**Ilir Melo**, Director, Department for the Region and Neighbouring Countries  
Albanian Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.  
**Agon Batusha**, member of the Kosovo Assembly, Committee on European Integration
- Q&A



**19.00-20.00**

Round-table discussion: **“The Western Balkans accession - Challenges and opportunities for the EU and the Balkans”**

*(Moderator: Lina Papadopoulou)*

**Anna Vezyroglou**, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission, DG NEAR

**George Andreou**, Assistant Professor, School of Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

**Ioannis Papageorgiou**, Professor, School of Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

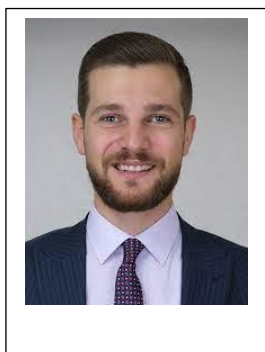
**20.00**

Conclusions and closing of the conference.

**\*Certificates of attendance will be provided upon physical attendance of the event.**



## Speakers' Short Bios

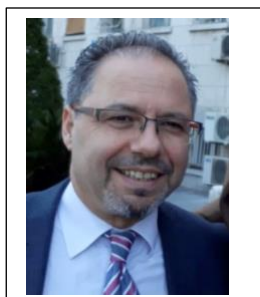


**Agon BATUSHA** was born in Kukes on 11 February 1993. In 2015 he completed his studies in European Integration. He continued his postgraduate studies in Political Science at the University of Pristina, Hasan Pristina. He is part of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Political School network. He participated in the Balkan FES training for "Promising Politicians".

From 2010 to 2011 he was chairman of the students of the municipality of Kukes. From 2011 to 2013 he was hired as project coordinator at the NGO Kosovar Youth Council (KYC) in Pristina, through which he coordinated projects with international organisations such as the World Bank, Save the Children, UNICEF. He has also been an associate of many national and local organisations in promoting and developing youth and environmental policies.

In the 2013 local elections, he was elected member of the Assembly of the municipality of Kumanovo by the ranks of the Vetevendosje Movement. In 2017 he was re-elected as a member of the Assembly and held office, chief of the LVV Kuvendivide Group in Kukes. In 2018 he was elected Chair of the Movement Centre in Kumanovo.

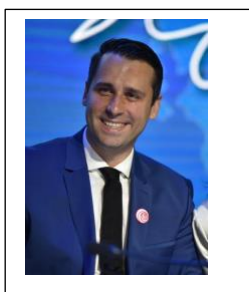
In the parliamentary elections of 2019, he was elected as an MP from the ranks of the VETEVENDOSJE! Movement (LVV). As a member of the VIIIth Legislature of the Assembly of the Republic, he is a member of the Committee on European Integration and chairman of the Non-Formal Group of Young Deputies of the Assembly of Kosovo.



**Ilir MELO** is Director of the Department for the Region and Neighbouring Countries, Albanian Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Born in 1963, Ilir Melo is a member of Foreign Service with the rank of the Minister Plenipotentiary. Prior to this assignment he served as the Ambassador of Albania to Croatia and as non-resident Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina and during this time he was the Albanian representative to RACVIAC, Zagreb.

Among other assignments he held senior posts as the Director General for International Organisation, the Chief of the Cabinet of the Deputy Prime minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. at Albanian Mission in UN as well as Director for the America, Asia and Africa and Director at the Department of Europe.

Mr. Melo has graduated from the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna (1993-1994). He was awarded the Croatian Medal of The Order of Duke Branimir.



**Pedja MITROVIC** is the Secretary-General of the Freedom and Justice Party, the largest opposition party in Serbia. He is an economist and public administration expert graduating from the Queen Mary University of London. Since 2014, he has been contracted by the EU, the World Bank, and the UNDP to support European integration reforms in the country, primarily in the area of public administration shake-up, including policy planning systems, government action-planning, service delivery, and e-government development.





**Dragan TILEV** (North Macedonia), State Counselor for European Affairs and member of the Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister for EU Affairs, with over 37 years professional experience, working as civil servant for different Government institutions.

During last 27 years, since 1996, he is directly involved in all major activities related to the integration of the country into the European Union, focusing on coordination of State Policies related to EU integration process and preparations for Accession negotiations, successfully managing and supporting implementation of complex and comprehensive processes and projects. Back in 2004, he was the first Co-chairperson of the EU-North Macedonia Stabilization and Association Committee. From 2010 to 2014, he was placed in Brussels, as Minister Counselor in the Mission to the EU, coordinating national experts and covering topics that include EU Affairs, Enlargement policy, Public Administration Reform and EU funds. Apart from working for Macedonian Government, on regional level he has provided technical assistance and practical advice on EU integration process to the Governments of Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo, B&H, Serbia and Ukraine.

He is author, co-author and coordinator of numerous publications and articles in local and international newspapers, TV debates and scientific magazines, with his comments on different EU affairs subjects. In addition, during his long professional carrier, he was active in informal think-thank groups and editorial boards.”.

