



EU-Western Balkans Summit

Среща на върха ЕС-Западни Балкани

EU Leaders' Agenda, Sofia 2018

Media Advisory

EU- Western Balkans Summit

17 May 2018, Sofia

The EU-Western Balkans Summit, which is set to take place on 17 May in Sofia and will be hosted by the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, will bring together the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the European Union and their counterparts from the Western Balkan region. It will be chaired by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, who will represent the EU together with the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker. The topic of the summit will be “Connectivity” – in terms of transport, energy and digital infrastructure, education, and other aspects. The summit will be preceded by an informal dinner of the EU Heads of State or Government as part of the Leaders’ Agenda.

Indicative Agenda

16 May 2018 | Wednesday

08:00 – 22:00 Press centre open at the National Palace of Culture (Entrance B2)

Accredited journalists can collect their badge

EU Heads of State or Government Dinner

19:00 Arrivals at Sofia Tech Park

Live coverage by host broadcaster

19:30 Informal Dinner

17 May 2018 | Thursday

06:00 Press centre opens at the National Palace of Culture (Entrance B2)



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EU - Western Balkans Summit – Indicative agenda

- 09:15 – 10:00 **Arrivals and doorstep statements** at the National Palace of Culture
Access for all accredited journalists; live coverage by host broadcaster
- 09:45 – 10:00 **Roundtable**
Pool A* ; live coverage by host broadcaster
- 10:00 – 11:30 **Plenary Session I: Connectivity**
- 11:30 – 11:45 **Break**
- 11:45 – 13:00 **Plenary Session II: Connectivity (continued)**
- 13:00 – 13:15 **Family photo**
Pool B* ; live coverage by host broadcaster
- 13:15 – 15:00 **Working lunch: Tackling common challenges**
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Press conference** and national briefings
Access for all accredited journalists; live coverage by host broadcaster

* Access cards to pool A & B are allocated through the press teams of the Member states.

Venue

The **National Palace of Culture** (NDK) in Sofia is the biggest congress centre in South East Europe. Work on the building began in 1979 and was finalised in 1981. Nearly 10 000 t of steel was used in the construction, approximately the same amount as in the Eiffel Tower, as well as 335 000 m³ of concrete. The project was designed by a team of architects led by Alexander Barov.

Today, the 1980s architecture and monumental art combines with modern art centres, such as the theatre Azaryan, the New Theatre and the art bar Peroto. Apart from a congress centre and host to important political gatherings, the National Palace of Culture is also one of the hot spots of cultural life in Sofia.

The **Press centre** will be housed inside the National Palace of Culture, accessible for journalists through Entrance B2 (on the side of Fritjof Nansen Str.). It will include working and lounge areas, the venues for the press conference, stand-up positions and booths for TV and radio.



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For more information about the venue and the press centre as well as practical information for journalists, please refer to the website of the Bulgarian Presidency: <https://eu2018bg.bg/en>.

Accreditation information

In order to attend the summit, please register for accreditation through the Website of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU: <https://eu2018bg.bg/en/accreditation>. Click on the “Accreditation” button next to the meeting and fill in the accreditation form. All fields with an asterisk (*) are compulsory. Once your registration has been verified and the accreditation process has been finalised, you will receive a confirmation email. This process may take several days.

We strongly advise you to apply for accreditation **by 8 May 2018 at the latest**. The opportunities for last-minute accreditations are limited.

Accredited journalists can pick up their badges on Wednesday, 16 May 2018 at the Registration Desk at Entrance B-2 of the National Palace of Culture between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Members of the press arriving in Sofia on the day of the event will be able to get their badges at the same entrance upon their arrival at the National Palace of Culture. Only accredited members of the press will have access to the National Palace of Culture.

In case of questions or problems regarding the accreditation, please contact k.rettig@government.bg.

Photos and videos

All media opportunities (marked above with “live coverage by host broadcaster”) will be available live on the [website of the Bulgarian Presidency](#), the [Council streaming platform](#) and [Europe by Satellite](#) and distributed in the press centre. On demand videos will be available on the [website of the Bulgarian Presidency](#), the [Council Newsroom](#), [Europe by Satellite](#) and the [Bulgarian Presidency’s Vimeo page](#).

All photos from the event will be uploaded throughout the day on the [website of the Bulgarian Presidency](#), the [Council Newsroom](#) and the [Bulgarian Presidency’s Flickr page](#).

Background information

The European perspective of the Western Balkan region is one of the four priority areas of the Bulgarian Presidency. The stability and prosperity of the Western Balkans is as much in the interest of the European Union as in the interest of the citizens in the region, as they are indispensable for peace and prosperity in Europe.



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The aim of the summit is to provide a clear European perspective to the Western Balkans, without creating false expectations. The EU accession process for each country will continue to proceed along the established path, and each country's progress will be evaluated individually and objectively according to the accession criteria.

[Priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency](#)

[Strategy for the Western Balkans on the website of the European Commission](#)

Contacts

All information about the summit can be found on the dedicated web page:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2018/05/17/>

For questions about the accreditation, please contact k.rettig@government.bg

For questions about the press centre, please contact d.simeonova@government.bg

For questions about radio and TV booths, please contact bntebu@bnt.bg

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For more information, please consult the summit page:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2018/05/17/>