

# EU - Western Balkans relations

April 2020 #WesternBalkans

# 2020 - a new moment for EU-Western Balkans relations

**February 2020:** Revised methodology, presented by the Commission, to drive the enlargement process forward with a **stronger political steer** and in a more **credible**, **predictable**, **dynamic way** 

March 2020: EU decides to open accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia



**April 2020:** EU financial support package of **over €3.3 billion** to tackle coronavirus-related health needs & post-pandemic socioeconomic recovery

6 May 2020: EU-Western Balkans leaders meeting

Commission proposal to further the EU-Western Balkans agenda with an **economic & investment plan** for the region to be presented **later this year** 

## Overview: EU relations with the Western Balkans

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina – Population: 3.5 million Potential candidate

Commission Opinion on EU membership application in May 2019; EU Council conclusions endorsing the 14 key priorities in Dec 2019.

**Montenegro** - Population: 0.6 million **Candidate country** 

Opened chapters - 32 Provisionally closed chapters - 3

Albania – Population: 2.9 million Candidate country

March 2020: EU decides to open accession negotiations.



Serbia - Population: 7 million
Candidate country
Opened chapters - 18 
Provisionally closed chapters -2

**Kosovo\***- Population: 1.8 million **Potential candidate** 

In April 2016, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement entered into force.

North Macedonia – Population: 2.1 million Candidate country

March 2020: EU decides to open accession negotiations.

# **Economic potential of the EU relations with the Western Balkans**



## €12.7 billion

**Foreign Direct Investments** in 2014-2018. EU companies are the biggest investors in the Western Balkans



Western Balkans is a market of

18 million consumers



# €55 billion

**in trade** between the EU and the Western Balkans in 2019

Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

\* 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