A new momentum in EU-Western Balkans relations

**Overview:** EU relations with the Western Balkans

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

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

**October 2020:** Commission proposes **Economic & Investment Plan of up to €30 billion** to support economic development and convergence with the EU

**June 2021:** Political agreement on the new **Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance** (finally adopted in September 2021)

**July 2021:** **Western Balkans Summit of the Berlin process**

**September 2021:** **Visit of President von der Leyen to the region**

**October 2021:** **EU27 – Western Balkans Summit under the Slovenian Presidency of the EU Council**

**Economic relations between the EU and the Western Balkans**

**EU companies are by far the leading investors**, accounting for **over 61%** of FDI stock in the region in 2019

**Western Balkans is a market of 18 million consumers**

**EU accounts for almost 70% of the region’s total trade in 2020**

*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*