Key milestones

**DECEMBER 2009**
Application for EU membership

**MARCH 2011**
EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade–Pristina started

**MARCH 2012**
EU Candidate country status granted

**JUNE 2013**
EU decides to open accession negotiations

**SEPTEMBER 2013**
Enter into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

**OCTOBER 2020**
Commission proposes Economic & Investment Plan to support and bring the Western Balkans closer to the EU

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**Trade & investment**

- The EU is Serbia's biggest trading partner
- The EU’s Foreign Direct Investment in Serbia reached €2.1 billion in 2020
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €25.4 billion in 2020

**EU funding**

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Serbia
- €2.79 billion in EU pre-accession funds (2007-2020)
- Over €5.5 billion provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €210.2 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €5.4 billion
- €162.2 million in disaster relief after the floods in 2014

**Mobility & empowerment**

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2009
- Around 12,400 participants from Serbia in higher education, vocational education and training, school education, adult learning and youth under ERASMUS+ (2014–2020) (Serbia is a programme country in Erasmus+ since 2019)
- €33 million in support to civil society (2014–2020)

**Supporting transformation**

- Strengthening democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
- Reforming public administration
- Fostering competitiveness and supporting business development
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food supply

**COVID-19 response**

In December 2020, the Commission adopted a €70 million package of grants to help fund the access of Western Balkans partners to COVID-19 vaccines. A part of these grants covered the delivery of 650,000 doses of BioNTech/Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines to all the Western Balkans – funded by the EU and facilitated by Austria – between May and August 2021. In February 2021, the Commission launched a project of over €7 million jointly with WHO, to support readiness for vaccination efforts and resilient health systems in the Western Balkans.

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Source: EU Data

ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement  |  facebook.com/EUnear  |  twitter.com/eu_near

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