

**A credible enlargement perspective for
and
enhanced EU engagement with
the Western Balkans**

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Why European Union?



- **It is our Europe, it is our strategic FP priority**
- **Democracy and RoL**
- **Political dialogue and stability**
- **Transparency and accountability**
- **Competitiveness and economic governance**
- **Efficient PA (PAR)**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Regional cooperation**
- **Support for enhanced bilateral relation and support with open bilateral questions**

“The Bulgarian presidency will be an honest broker and will seek for consensus, compromise and understanding among MS to take decision and adopt legislation”

MORE



THROUGH



Consensus



Cometitiveness



Cohesion

FOR



**STRONG and stable
Europe**



**DIGITAL and comepetitive
Europe**



**UNITY and mutual
coopetation**

Priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018

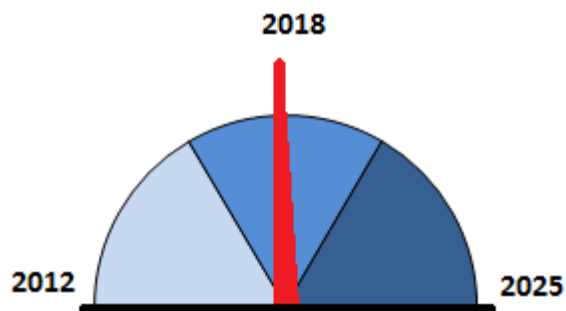
- 1. Future of Europe and young people - economic growth and social cohesion**
- 2. Security and stability in a strong and united**
- 3. European perspective and connectivity of the Western Balkans**
- 4. Digital economy and skills needed for the future**

European perspective and connectivity of the WB6

- Delivering a **tangible European perspective** for all the countries from the Western Balkans
- Promoting peace, security and prosperity
- **Dialogue based on implementation of the criteria and the merit principle**, political will and decisive reform on the part of these countries
- Enhancing **regional cooperation and developing good neighbourly relations**
- Enhancing links with the **EU Single Market and improving connectivity**
- **Enhancing links with the EU Single Market**
- improving connections with the Digital Single Market; Promoting the EU's Digital Policies among the Western Balkan countries, such as **gradual reduction of roaming charges and increase in broadband internet access opportunities**
- Bringing **transport, communications, infrastructure and energy connectivity** on the agenda

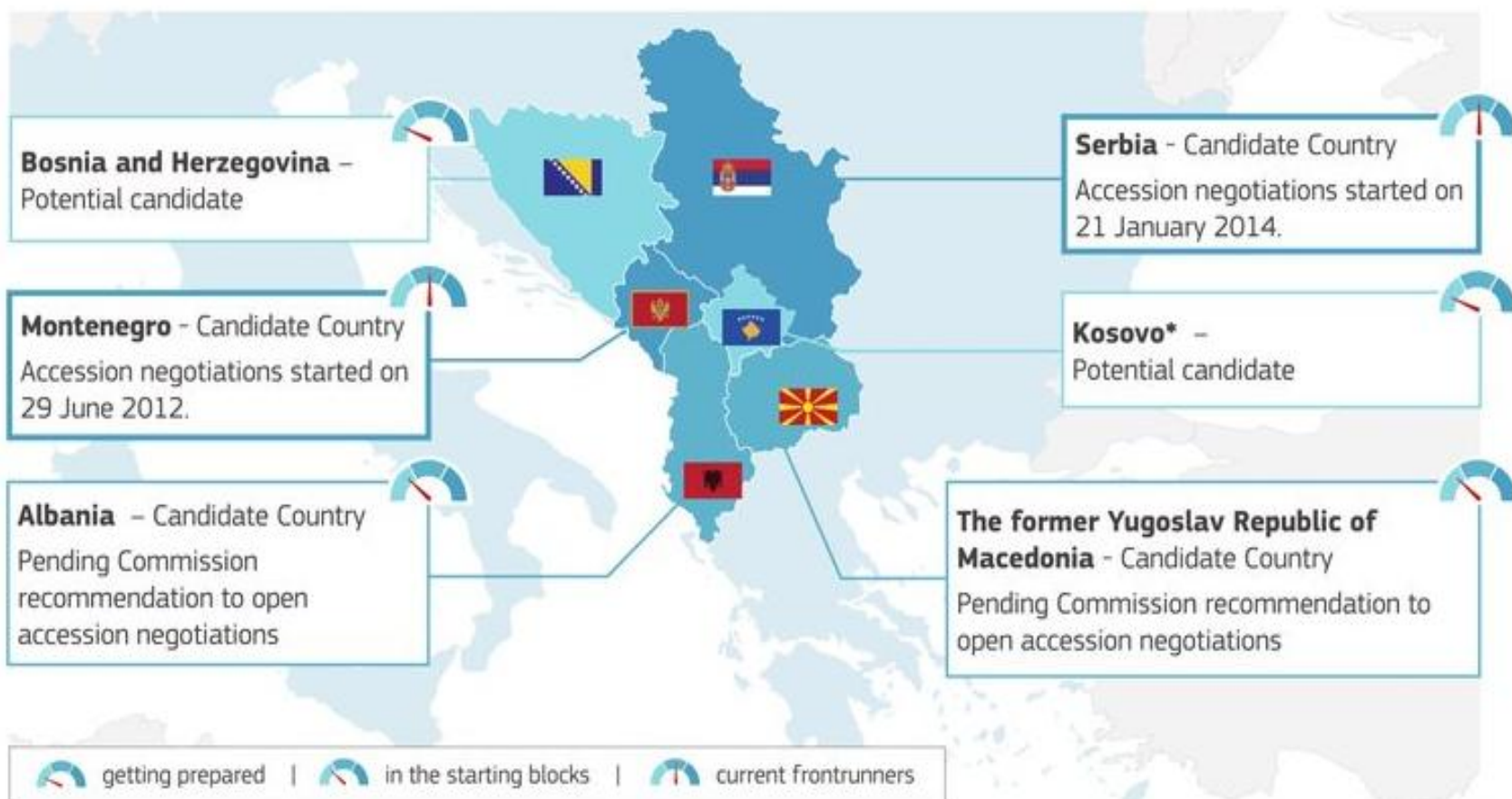
2018 - Important files and dates

- **6.II 2018 - EC: A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans**
- Visit of President Juncker, meeting with PMs of WB in Sofia (II/III)
- **RegularEC report on C23 & 24 for Montenegro and Serbia – III 2018 (Non paper?)**
- **18 IV 2018 - The Regular Enlargement Report**
- **17 V 2018 – EU & BALKAN SUMMIT, HoS & Governments, Sofia, Adoption of the Declaration with specific recommendation to each country**
- Strengthening **security cooperation** and initiatives to counter terrorism, organized crime, border security and RoL in WB region
- Initiative for **digital connectivity** with a step-by-step adoption of the EU roaming rules by the WB countries as well, aiming for a gradual reduction of roaming charges and increase in broadband internet access opportunities
- Encouraging **regional cooperation and good interconnectivity** as 'vital' preconditions to establish a secure, well-functioning and accessible energy network
- **London Summit** July 2018, Connectivity agenda



EUROMETER FOR WB 6

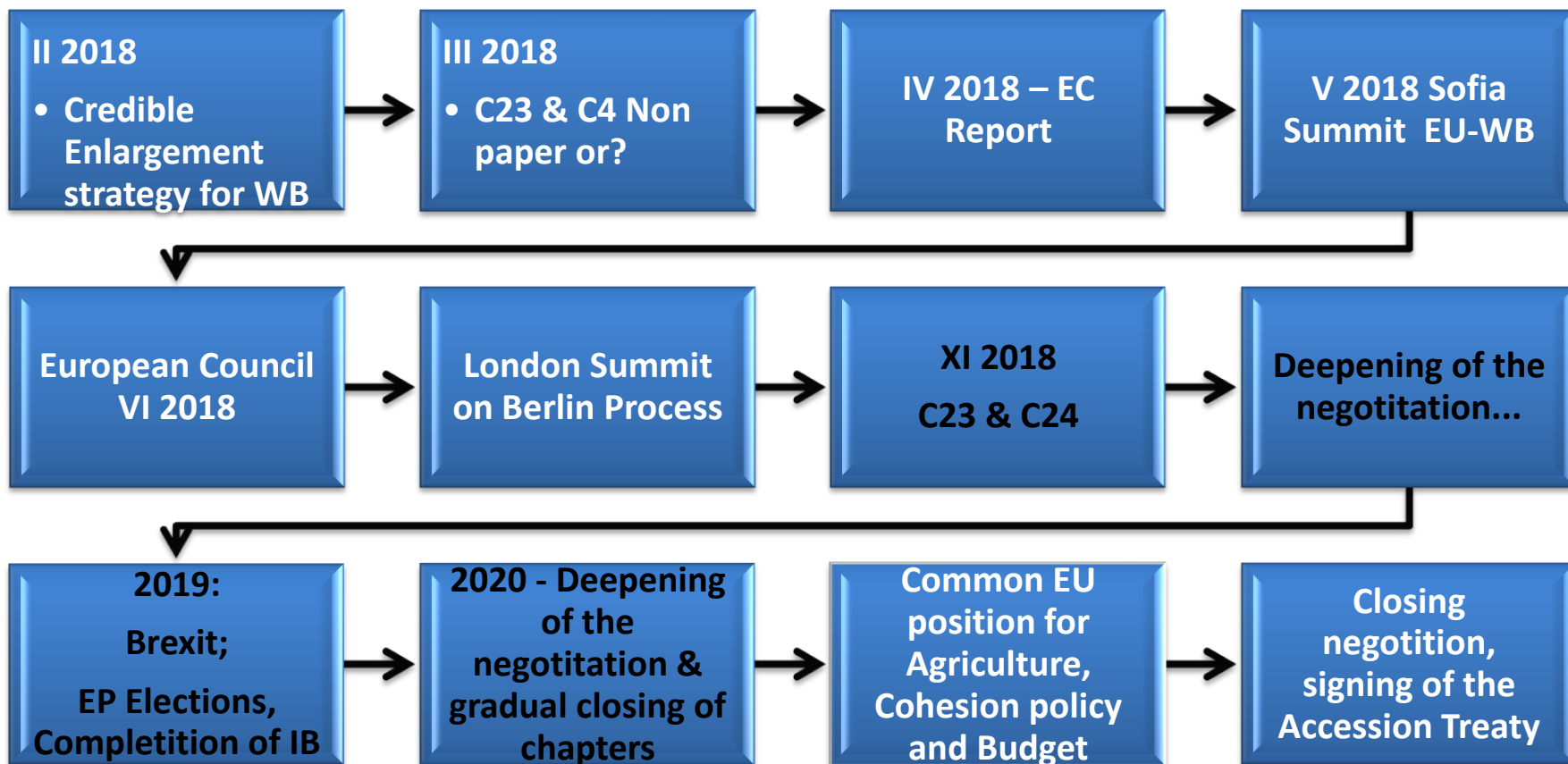
PROSPECTIVE EUROPEAN UNION MEMBERS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS



The Union must be stronger and more solid, before it can be bigger !

EC Strategy conclusions

- All countries must unequivocally commit, in both word and deed, to overcoming the legacy of the past, by achieving reconciliation and **solving open issues** well before their accession to the EU, in particular **border disputes**.
- There needs to be a **comprehensive, legally-binding normalisation agreement between Serbia and Kosovo** so that they can advance on their respective European paths.
- The EU will significantly enhance its support to the **transformation** process in the Western Balkans.
- The Commission foresees an Action Plan in Support of the Transformation of the Western Balkans, annexed to the Strategy. It includes **six Flagship Initiatives** targeting specific areas of interest for both the EU and the Western Balkan countries themselves including through a number of new measures in areas of **strong mutual interest**:
 1. Initiative to strengthen the rule of law ,
 2. Initiative to reinforce engagement on security and migration,
 3. Initiative to enhance support for socio-economic development ,
 4. Initiative to increase transport and energy connectivity ,
 5. Initiative for a Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans ,
 6. Initiative to support reconciliation and good neighbourly relations





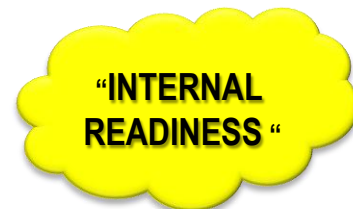
LET'S GO!



me4.eu
eu4.me
ja za evropu evropa za mene

MONTENEGRO: EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS DYNAMIC

EFFICIENCY



Market opened in 2012
SSA implementation (5 y.)
1.5.2010.-1.5.2015.

EVOLUTION

MoR
1967-
1990

ZG SUMMIT
2000 - SAp

2007
- CONSTITUTION
- SAA

2009 -2010
- SAA RATIFICATION
- CANDIDATE STATUS
- VISA FREE TRAVEL

Screening
III 2012
VII 2013

2006
INDEPENDENCE
(EI as important pillar of
"Independence project")

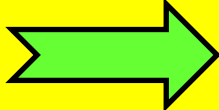
2008 – Interim Agreement
SAA IMPLEMENTATION / NPI
- APPLICATION FOR THE EU
MEMBERSHIP

XII 2011 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20 '21 '22 '23 '24
Pol.Decision ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS (29.6.'12.-..)

29th NATO member - 5 VI 2017

CHAPTERS	MONTENEGRO, 5 years and 8 months of the accession talks																							83+							
	29.6 '12		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		OB+ IBs	CBs					
	DK	CY	IE	LT	GR	IT	LV	LU	NL	SK	MT	EE	BG	AT	RO	FI	HR	DE	PT	SI	FR	CZ	SE	ES							
23	26.III			18.XII	PREGOVORI																						45				
24	28.III			18.XII	NEGOTIATIONS														IBv											38	
25	26.VII	18.XII																													
26	26.VII		15.IV																												
5				18.XII																							3				
6				18.XII																							4				
20				18.XII																							1				
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34	Screening process																														
35																															
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	0/0	1/1	2/2	7/2	12/2	16/2	20/2	22/2	24/2	26/2	28/3	30/3	32/7	33/13	33/21	33/31	35/35									u 11	u 26				

2023 or 2024- Accession Treaty



WB EI DYNAMIC, February 2018

EI PHASES	ALBANIA	BiH	MACEDONIA	MONTE NEGRO	SERBIA	KOSOVO
SAA Signing	12.6. '06.	15.6.'08.	9.4.'01.	15.10.'07.	28.4.'08	27.10.'15.
SAA Market opening	10 years – 2016	5 years - 2013	10 years – 2011	5 years – 2012	6 years – 2014	10 years (2026)
SAA Entry into force	1.4.'09	1.6.'15.	1.4.'04	1. 5. '10.	1.9.'13.	1.4.'16.
Submit application	28.4.'09.	15.2.'16.	22.3.'04.	15.12.'08.	19.12.'09.	To submit?
Candidate country	27.6.'14.	Questionnaire/ Answers just adopted -3242 (14. 2'18)	9.12.'05.	17.12.'10.	1.3.'12.	
Accession negotiation	EC reccom. to open (2016-)!		EC reccom. to open (2005-..)!	29.6.'12. (30/3)	21.1.'14. (12/2)	
MAIN CHALLENGES	RULE OF LAW (C 23 & 24)					
	Political dialogue	Functionality of the state	Name issue (EL) and stability	Administrative capacities	Dialogue Belgrade Pristine	
	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS (ERP)					
	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM (PAR)					

NATO Foreign Ministers signed the Accession Protocol with Montenegro on 19 May 2016