



WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES ON THE PATH TO THE EU – 2022

► **Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
Constitution Hall
16 September 2022**

► **Format: hybrid
Working languages: English, Lithuanian**

9:00–9:30¹ Registration of participants, coffee

9:30–10:00 Opening of the Conference

Moderator: **Ms Laima Andrikienė**, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Welcome and opening addresses:

Ms Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Ms Vjosa Osmani - Sadriu, President of the Republic of Kosovo (*video address*)

Mr Pavel Fischer, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the Senate of the Czech Republic (*online*)

Keynote speech:

Ms Jovita Neliupšienė, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

10:00–11:00 Session I: Western Balkans: *status quo* and key challenges

Mr Davor Ivo Stier, Member of the Croatian Parliament, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Head of the Interparliamentary Friendship Group Croatia - Lithuania

Ms Mimi Kodheli, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Albanian Parliament (*online*)

Mr Borko Stefanović, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia (*online*)

Ms Arbëreshë Kryeziu Hyseni, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee for European Integration, Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo (*online*)

Q&A

11:00–12:00 Session II: European integration of Western Balkan countries from the perspective of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the EEAS

Mr Maciej Popowski, Director-General of the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission (*online*)

Mr Miroslav Lajčák, EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues (*online*)

Mr Paulo Rangel, Rapporteur on Bosnia and Herzegovina, European Parliament (*online*)

Q&A

12:00–12:40 Expert panel: Trends of the European integration of Western Balkan countries and assessment of the membership prospects

Dr Simonida Kacarska, Director of the European Policy Institute in Skopje (North Macedonia) (*online*)

Dr Lina Strupinskienė, Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University

Dr Klaudijus Maniokas, ESTEP, Lithuania (*online*)

Q&A

12:40–12:50 Conclusions and closing

Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

¹ All times in the programme are local times in Lithuania