



Minister für Bundes- und Europaangelegenheiten
sowie Internationales des
Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



The EU's consolidation in the Western Balkans:
A challenge for politics and society

21st of October 2020, 6:00 pm – 7:45 pm
at the Permanent Representation
of the State North Rhine-Westphalia to the German Federation
and online

Keynote:

Etilda Gjonaj,
Minister of Justice of the Republik of Albania

Panel discussion:

Minister Etilda Gjonaj,

Dr. Stephan Holthoff-Pförtner,
Minister of Federal, European and International Affairs
of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Manuel Sarrazin MP,
President of the Southeast Europe Association

Prof. Dr. Vesna Pusić,
former Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia and MP

Ivan Nikolovski,
researcher at the Center for European Integrations at the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis", Skopje and former president of the Young European Federalists North Macedonia

Chair: **Valeska Esch,**
Deputy Executive Director and Program Director Europe,
Aspen Institute Germany

The future of the Western Balkan states lies in the European Union. The European perspective has shaped their political development for many years. This long process of approximation entered a new phase in the past year.

North Rhine-Westphalia is committed to supporting the process of integration of the Western Balkan states. In the context of Germany's presidency of the EU Council, we are promoting dialogue and strengthening cooperation with actors from the region. This event is part of an international expert conference focusing on the role of civil society in the integration process. It is jointly organised by the Permanent Representation of North Rhine-Westphalia in Berlin, the Southeast Europe Association and the Federal Network for Civic Engagement (BBE) with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Due to the pandemic-related requirements, the capacities for participation on site are currently limited to about 40 people. However, you can also follow the event online. In this way, participation is also possible for those who cannot be present on site. The event will be held in German and English with simultaneous translation.

Please register using the [link below](#) by October 16th at the latest.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Stephan Holthoff-Pförtner

With the support of the

