



## Online Discussion

### **Kosovo after the Elections: Discussing challenges, expectations and opportunities with Foreign Minister Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz**



Photo: Foreign Minister Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz meets German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas for talks in Pristina. © Official Facebook account of D. Gërvalla-Schwarz

Tuesday, 18 May 2021, 6.30 pm

Online via ZOOM

#### Address of Welcome:

**Peter Beyer**, MP, Coordinator for Transatlantic Cooperation of the German Federal Government, Rapporteur for Kosovo of the Council of Europe, Vice President of the Southeast Europe Association, Berlin

**Muhamet Idrizi**, Chairman ODA Hamburg e.V., Organization of German-Albanian Academics, Hamburg

#### Panelists:

**Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo, Pristina

**Manuel Sarrazin**, MP, Spokesman for Eastern European Policy of the Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen, President of the Southeast Europe Association, Berlin / Hamburg

## Topic

Following the parliamentary elections in Kosovo on 14 February 2021 the parliament in Pristina confirmed a new government under Prime Minister Albin Kurti (Vetevendosje) on 22 March. Kosovo's new foreign minister is Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz: Born in Kosovo and raised in Germany and Albania, the 49-year-old flutist and lawyer most recently lived with her family in Bonn. Gërvalla-Schwarz ran for the first time in the recent elections on the newly formed list of Vjosa Osmani "Guxo!" (English: "Dare!") and was elected to Kosovo's parliament with 70,000 votes.

Both the new government as well as its foreign minister face major tasks. Vetevendosje promises Kosovars a radical change at the domestic level towards more rule of law, good governance, a more engaged fight against corruption, economic recovery and social justice. The office of Kosovo's foreign minister itself faces numerous challenges in equal measure: How to proceed with integration into the European Union, when five EU member states still refuse to recognize Kosovo as a state? What can be expected from the negotiations with Serbia, which Gërvalla-Schwarz will now conduct together with Prime Minister Kurti? What role does a "Greater Albania scenario" play in the government's agenda? What does the Kosovar government expect from Germany and the EU? When and how can visa liberalization finally be realized? How can German and European policy more effectively support the planned reform dynamic? Which role will the U.S. administration under President Biden play in the country's future?

Manuel Sarrazin, MP, President of the Southeast Europe Association, will discuss these and other questions with Foreign Minister Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz.



### Registration

Please register until 17. Mai 2021: [Registration form](#)

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