



WESTERN BALKANS
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY
FROM A GEOPOLITICAL PERSPECTIVE
WARSAW | POLAND 29th MAY 2019

**THE
WARSAW
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REVIEW**

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Western Balkans. Infrastructure and Energy from a Geopolitical Perspective.

EVENT AGENDA

Day 1, 28 May

AleGloria Restaurant, Trzech Krzyży Sq. 3

20:00–20:15 Welcoming Remarks

20:15–22:00 Official Supper

Day 2, 29 May

Collegium Politicum, University of Warsaw, Krakowskie Przedmieście St. 26/28

9:00–9:10 Welcoming Remarks

Krzysztof Kamiński - President, Warsaw Institute, Poland

9:10–9:30 Keynote speech

Szymon Szykowski vel. Sęk - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Poland

9:30–9:45 Report Presentation

The following report makes an attempt to explain the situation in the Western Balkans while examining the involvement of individual global actors in the region. First, attention is drawn to the regional road, railway, aviation, and maritime infrastructure, especially in the cross-boundary context. Secondly, the report outlines the issues of energy and raw material security, focusing on external energy dependence and the development of alternative energy sources. Ultimately, and of consequence, both themes are linked to geopolitical aspects and the competition of superpowers in the Western Balkans.

- **Leading Expert - Jakub Lachert** - Expert, Warsaw Institute, Poland [CON]
- **Consultant - Armela Maxhelaku** - Researcher and Expert of EU Projects, Albania [CON]

9:45–11:15 Session 1: Infrastructure

Development of road, railway, aviation and maritime infrastructure in the Western Balkans in the regional context. The panel discussion will be held on the following topics:

- a) Regional needs for modernization and development of transport infrastructure;*
- b) Political and financial constraints related to infrastructure development;*
- c) New transport infrastructure initiatives in the Western Balkans;*
- d) Major foreign-funded infrastructure investments in individual countries and regional investments financed under EU, Russian, Chinese and Turkish projects.*



- **Momcilo Radulovic** - President, European Movement in Montenegro, Montenegro [CON]
 - **Francesco Martino** - Journalist, Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso, Italy [TBC]
 - **Jelena Popovic** - Key Expert for Technical Regulations, Quality Infrastructure in the Western Balkans, Serbia [TBC]
 - **Liljana Pecova-Ilieska** – President & CEO, IMPETUS – Center for Internet, Development and Good Governance, Macedonia [CON]
- Moderated by Armela Maxhelaku* - Researcher and Expert of EU Projects, Albania [CON]

11:15–11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30–13:00 **Session 2: Energy**

Energy projects in the Western Balkan region and possibilities to boost energy security in Europe. The panel discussion will be held on the following topics:

- a) Analysis of the current regional energy needs and accessible energy sources;*
- b) External dependence on energy supplies in individual countries;*
- c) The role of foreign investments in key parts of the energy infrastructure of the six Western Balkans countries;*
- d) Investments in the energy sector of supra-regional importance;*
- e) Development of renewable energy sources.*

- **Novak Medenica** - Director, Energy Regulatory Agency, Montenegro [CON]
- **Denis Žiško** - Energy and Climate Change Program Coordinator, Centar za ekologiju i energiju, Bosna and Hercegovina [CON]
- **Vjosa Beqaj** - Director Department of Sectoral Policies Ministry of European Integration, Kosovo [CON]
- **Vladimir Spasic** - Journalist at Online platform "Balkan Green Energy News", Belgrade, Serbia [CON]
- **Besar Likmeta** - Editor for the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, BIRN, Tirana, Albania [CON]

Moderated by Maciej Zaniewicz - Editor, Energetyka24, Poland [CON]

13:00–13:30 **Lunch**

13:30–15:00 **Session 3: Geopolitics**

Geopolitical approach to the Western Balkans' cooperation with China, the European Union, Russia, Turkey, and the United States. The panel discussion will be held on the following topics:

- a) Regional development of the Western Balkans as the core objective of EU policy;*
- b) Western Balkans as a "gateway" for Chinese trade to Europe: Beijing's energy*



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and infrastructure investments;

c) Is Turkey conducting neo-Ottoman policy in the Western Balkans;

d) Are Western Balkans countries likely to become new Russian satellite states

e) U.S. objectives in the Western Balkans and NATO enlargement process in the region.

- **Marija Jankuloska** - Researcher, Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia, Macedonia [CON]
- **Borislav Spasojevic** - Resident Country Director at International Republican Institute, Serbia [CON]
- **Darko Trifunović** - Director, Center for National and International Studies Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade, Serbia [CON]
- **Igor Petrovski** - Assistant editor-in-chief, Kapital magazine at Kapital Media Group, Macedonia [CON]

*Moderated by **Jakub Lachert** - Expert, Warsaw Institute, Poland [CON]*

15:00–15:10 Closing Remarks