



EVRO-ATLANTSKI SVET SLOVENIJE
EURO-ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF SLOVENIA



BALKAN SAYS 2021

Online Zoom webinar, 15 – 16 September 2021



Programme



This event is sponsored by
NATO's Public Diplomacy Division



TIMELINE OF SEMINAR

Wednesday, 15 September, 2021

09:30	Webinar registration opens
09:50	Opening address – Prof. Dr. Iztok Prezelj, President of the Euro Atlantic Council of Slovenia
10:00	Panel I: <i>Mediterranean Security – Migration flows and Euro-Turkish relations, what do they mean for the security in the Adriatic and the Eastern Mediterranean?</i>
11:40	Workshop I
12:30	LUNCH BREAK
13:30	Panel II: <i>Contemporary Security Challenges in the Western Balkans – How well are the Western Balkans dealing with complex crisis management and energy insecurity?</i>
15:10	Workshop II
16:00	End of Day 1

Thursday, 16 September, 2021

09:30	Webinar registration opens
10:00	Panel III: <i>Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU – a reflection on the goals of the presidency and the issues facing the EU</i>
11:40	Panel IV: <i>NATO 2030 – building a resilient future</i>
13:10	Concluding remarks – Brin Najžer, PhD, President of the Youth Section of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia
13:20	End of event



PANELS & SPEAKERS

Panel I: Mediterranean Security – *Migration flows and Greco-Turkish relations, what do they mean for the security in the Adriatic and the Eastern Mediterranean?*

- How does the relationship between the EU and Turkey, and Turkey and NATO shape the security environment in the Balkans?
- What do potential new mass migration flows mean for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans?
- Tensions between Greece and Turkey, what do they mean for NATO?

Speakers:

- Asist. Prof. Dr. Primož Štrbenc, Faculty of Management, University of Primorska
- Daniel Fazlič, 24ur.com

Moderator: Bor Grobelšek (Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia)

Panel II: Contemporary Security Challenges in the Balkans - *How well are the Western Balkans dealing with complex crisis management and energy insecurity?*

- How well do the states of the Western Balkans deal with natural disasters and other emergencies (earthquakes, pandemics ...)?
- What are some of the opportunities for regional cooperation in crisis management?
- What is the path to recovery for the Western Balkans emerging from the epidemiological crisis?
- Can 'green energy' alleviate European reliance on energy imports from Russia?
- What do projects like North Stream and TurkStream + Serbian Stream mean for energy security of Europe and the Western Balkans?
- How vulnerable is the critical infrastructure of the Western Balkans?

Speakers:

- Prof. Em. Dr. Anton Bebler, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
- Sonja Stojanovic Gajic, Belgrade Security Forum
- Assist. Prof. Dr. Jelena Juvan, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana

Moderator: Ambrož Sušnik (Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia)



Panel III: Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU – a reflection on the goals of the presidency and the issues facing the EU

- How to improve Europe's resilience to crises and devise contingency plans in case of emergencies (cybersecurity)?
- What is happening in the EU's enlargement process towards the East and the South, are countries from the Western Balkans still interested in the enlargement?
- How was public confidence affected by crisis communication during the coronavirus pandemic?

Speakers:

- Jernej Müller, Director-General, Directorate for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia
- Ivana Boštjančič Pulko, Secretary, Director's Office, Information Security Administration, Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boštjan Udovič, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana

Moderator: Igor Zidarič (Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia)

Panel IV: NATO 2030 – building a resilient future

- What effects will the new US administration have on the future of NATO?
- How will NATO's new global emphasis change its role in the Balkans?
- Can NATO successfully defend itself against information and cyber warfare?
- What are the prospects of future NATO out-of-area operations like Afghanistan?

Speakers:

- mag. Mirko Cigler, Slovenian Association for International Relations (TBC)
- Luke McNamara, FireEye Mandiant Intelligence
- Uroš Zorko, Director-General, Directorate for Defence Policy, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia

Moderator: Tea Teodora Ristevska (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana)



ABOUT BALKAN SAYS 2021

The 2021 edition of Balkan SAYS will be an online conducted on the Zoom platform and hosted by the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia in cooperation with the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. There will be 42 participants in this year's Balkan SAYS who come 22 different countries and a variety of backgrounds. The targeted audience are students and young professionals under 35 years of age and come mostly from Europe, especially the Balkans. All of the participants will receive a short background briefing (included in the Annexe of this document) to give them a basic overview and knowledge base on the topics, as well as the key questions which the speakers will address during the panel discussions.

PANEL FORMAT

Number of speakers: 2-4 + 1 moderator

The panels will begin with the moderator introducing all the speakers for that panel. Each speaker will then make a 10–15-minute introductory presentation and once all the presentations are finished the panel will move to a moderated debate and Q&A session. Participants will write the questions into the online platform chat and the moderator will pick which questions to ask. The participants will be muted, and their video feeds disabled, to ensure smooth running of the conference. **The panels are scheduled to last for one and a half hours.**

The panels and workshops will be organised as a continuous Zoom meeting and the link will be sent to participants at least three days before the conference.

Speakers are asked to connect to the meeting at least **10 minutes prior** to the start of their panel to ensure that the connection is stable.

Speakers can give their presentation on any aspect of the topic of the panel and do not have to directly answer the questions. The questions are deliberately broad and should merely serve as guidelines when preparing for their presentation. There will be opportunities to develop your thoughts during the Q&A.

WORKSHOP FORMAT

Participants will be divided into smaller groups of around 10 people and assigned into breakout rooms. Each room will also have a moderator who will guide the discussions and record any



conclusions. The workshops will allow each participant to discuss their arguments and what has been said during the panel presentations with their peers. At the end of each workshop the participants will have to agree on a set of policy recommendations for the given topic.

Workshops will take place after the first and second panel discussions of the first day of the seminar (15 September).