

Beat: Politics

## WESTERN BALKANS 2015 SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN VIENNA AUGUST 27

### UNDER EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT

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#### USPA NEWS -

The Western Balkan Summit 2015 is held in Vienna on August 27th, supported by the European Union. It will build on the progress made since the Berlin Summit in August last year, and will seek to further develop the co-operation between the 6 Western Balkans countries.

#### EU SUPPORT FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AT 2015 SUMMIT IN VIENNA- AUSTRIA-----

Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Vice-President for Energy Union MaroÅ; Å efÄ?oviÄ? and Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for the European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, will represent the European Union at the Western Balkans Summit in Vienna, tomorrow 27 August, hosted by Austrian Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann.

The Summit will build on the progress made since the Berlin Summit in August last year, and will seek to further develop the co-operation between the 6 Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia) in dealing with their common challenges, notably migration "" one of the main topics of the Summit, which also include regional cooperation and religious dialogue and anti-extremism. The Summit will include parallel sessions for the Heads of Governments, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Economy.

#### AGENDA OF THE SUMMIT

"ç At the Heads of Governments' session the Prime Ministers will discuss the current economic situation in the region, youth/vocational education and connectivity. High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini will participate at this session. She said "The Western Balkans region faces many challenges, from the urgency to tackle security and migration issues to the need to address economic and political difficulties in many countries. The Western Balkans Summit in Vienna will give us an important opportunity not only to discuss the present challenges, but also our common future".

"ç Commissioner Hahn, together with Foreign Ministers will discuss current priority issues in regional cooperation, and the current migration-related challenges. Commissioner Hahn said: "We have seen remarkable progress on our joint connectivity agenda since the Summit in Berlin last year and we have now identified concrete priority investment projects in the region, which could receive support from the Instrument of Pre-Accession."

"ç Vice-President Å efÄ?oviÄ? and Economic Ministers will debate economic prospects of the region, and energy and transport connectivity as well as vocational training. Vice President Å efÄ?oviÄ? said: "Our Energy Union Strategy states very clearly that the Energy Union does not stop at the Union's borders. That's why we spare no effort to better connect the Western Balkans to our own energy systems. That's the message I passed when I was recently in Serbia, and this is my message at the Summit as well."

Source: Diplomacy, European Commission

#### Article online:

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**Editorial program service of General News Agency:**

United Press Association, Inc.  
3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168  
Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA  
(702) 943.0321 Local  
(702) 943.0233 Facsimile  
[info@unitedpressassociation.org](mailto:info@unitedpressassociation.org)  
[info@gna24.com](mailto:info@gna24.com)  
[www.gna24.com](http://www.gna24.com)