

Big Powers in the Western Balkans: Cooperation and/or Competition?

20 May 2022

8:00 CEST -12:15 CEST(14:00-18:15 Beijing Time)

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

8:00 (CEST)/14:00 Welcome speech by Dr. Jing Men, Director of Centre for European Studies, East China Normal University

8:05 (CEST)/14:05 Opening speech by Dr. Shaolei Feng, Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts, Director of Centre for Russian Studies, East China Normal University

Panel One: China and the Western Balkans

8:15-9:15 (CEST)/14:15-15:15 (Beijing Time)

Chair&Discussant:

Dr. Anastas Vangeli, School of Economics and Business of the University of Ljubljana

Speakers:

- Dr. Biao Zhang, China University of Political Science and Law: "China's Economic Statecraft in the Western Balkans: An Appraisal"
- Mr. Janis Mandic, Julius-Maximilians University of Würzburg: "Foundations of the 'Steel Friendship': Analyzing Chinese narratives in Serbia"
- Ms. Xin Guan, Renmin University of China & Oxford University: "China's Strategy Towards the Western Balkans Against the Changing Dynamics of the Belt and Road Initiative"

Panel Two: The EU and the Western Balkans

9:15-10:15 (CEST)/15:15-16:15 (Beijing Time)

Chair&Discussant:

Dr. Andreas Peter Maurer, Director of Innsbruck Center for European Research, University of Innsbruck

Speakers:

- Dr. Paul André, Sciences Po & ESSCA EU-Asia Institute; Dr. Jérôme Roudier, Sciences Po & Lille Catholic University: "Neither cooperation nor competition: cooptation. For a Machiavellian perspective of big powers relations in Western Balkans"
- Dr. Stefan Gänzle, "The EU's macro-regional approach vis-à-vis the Western Balkans: Lost in external differentiation?"
- Dr. Ioanna Bantouna, Department of International & European Studies, University of Piraeus: "Institutional and Political Aspects of EU Enlargement: Negotiation Dynamics in Balkan Challenges of Foreign Policy"

Panel Three: Comparative approaches between the EU and the China in the Western Balkans

10:15-11:15 (CEST)/16:15-17:15 (Beijing Time)

Chair&Discussant:

Dr. Ivona Ladjevac, Deputy Director of Institute of International Politics and Economics

Speakers:

- Dr. Shaohua Yan, Fudan University: "Chinese and European Engagement with the Western Balkans: A Comparative Analysis"
- Mr. Vladimir Milić, Renmin University of China: "Western Balkans as a blueprint for future cooperation between EU and China"
- Dr. Dragan Pavličević, Department of China Studies Xi'an Jiaotong - Liverpool University: "Perception Gap, Policy Incompatibility and Strategic Uncertainty: Sino-Balkan relations and the Great Power Rivalry in the Western Balkans"

Panel Four: Big Powers in the Western Balkans

11:15-12:25 (CEST)/17:15-18:25 (Beijing Time)

Chair&Discussant:

Dr. Alexander Lukin, HSE University

Speakers:

- Dr. Marcin Frenkel & Mr. Michał Gzik, University of Lodz: "Chinese and American engagement in Croatia and Slovenia at the municipal level. The importance of sub-state relations in the foreign policy of the West Balkan states towards China and the United States"
- Dr. Gorana Grgić, The University of Sydney: "The Western Balkans on the Transatlantic Agenda: 'Unfinished Business' or 'None of Our Business'?"
- Dr. Ekaterina Entina, HSE University, Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Science: "Russia's influence in the Western Balkans"
- Dr. Gang Xu, Institute of Russian, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences: "China and Russia in the Balkans: Collaborators, Competitors or Antagonists"

12:25 (CEST)/18:25 **Conclusion of the conference**