

EU-BALKANS AGENDA: 16 – 22 November 2009

November 13-16 | Priština

Parliament delegation visit Kosovo

A seven-MEPs delegation led by Doris PACK (EPP, DE) will visit Kosovo on the occasion of the first local elections carried out under the sole responsibility of the Kosovo authorities (15/11). Although the delegation's mandate is not to observe the election in a formal capacity, MEPs will nonetheless visit several polling stations across the country, including some of the newly established municipalities. Ahead of the ballot, the ad-hoc delegation will meet Ministers Sadri Ferati and Sasa Rasic, members of the Central Election Commission and candidates for the elections. The delegation will also meet representatives of the international community including EU Special Representative Pieter Feith and OSCE Ambassador Werner Almhofer. MEPs will be available for comments to the press at 11.30am in ABC Cinema, Priština.

November 16-17 | Brussels

EU-Western Balkans Justice and Home Affairs Forum

Conference organized by the **Swedish Presidency** at the Committee of the Regions. The EU-Western Balkans Justice and Home Affairs Forum is an annual event, reassembling the ministers of justice and interior of the Western Balkans countries with the corresponding ministers from the current and incoming Presidency of the Council of the EU as well as with the competent Commissioner. The objective is to discuss Justice and Home Affairs items of importance in the relations between the EU and the Western Balkans.

November 17 | Brussels

In Europe we trust? Public opinion in the Balkans

Policy Dialogue organized by EPC (European Policy Centre), in cooperation with the European Fund for the Balkans. Travel, better employment prospects and improvements in the rule of law are amongst the most coveted benefits that membership of the EU would bring to the Balkan countries. These insights and issues will be discussed by a panel including **Robert Manchin**, CEO of Gallup Europe, who will also illustrate the most important findings of the Gallup Balkan Monitor, **Giuliano Amato**, former Prime Minister of Italy and former Chairman of the International Commission on the Balkans, **Ivan Krastev**, Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia, and **Zeljko Pantelic**, Journalist, Dnevnik newspaper correspondent in Brussels. The dialogue will be chaired by Rosa Balfour, EPC Senior Policy Analyst. (14.30–16.30)

November 19 | Brussels

Visa liberalisation in the Balkans: time for the breakthrough?

Policy Dialogue organized by EPC (European Policy Center), Discussion with **Ana Vukadinovic**, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Montenegro, **Samir Rizvo**, BiH Ministry of Security, visa roadmap coordinator, **Fesnik Rexhepi**, Senior Advisor, Kosovo Minister of the Interior, **Luigi Soreca**, DG Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission, **Alexandra Stiglmayer**, Director, ESI's Schengen White List Project European Parliament, and **Gordan Jandroković**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia. (14.00 to 16.00)

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