

AGENDA

7th Meeting of the German-Slovak Reflection Group

10 December 2018

Bratislava

10:00 – 10:30 **Arrival of participants, registration**

10:30 – 10:35 **Welcome/Opening Remarks**

Vladimír Bilčík, Head of EU Program, SFPA

Kai-Olaf Lang, Senior Fellow, SWP

Matthias Jobelius, Head of Department for Central and Eastern Europe, FES

10:35 – 11:30 **Reforms for the EU –Strengthening Unity and Delivering Better Results**

Speakers

František Ružička, State Secretary, Slovak Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Michael Roth, Minister of State for Europe, German Federal Foreign Office

Chair: Vladimír Bilčík, Head of EU Program, SFPA

11:30 – 13:00 **Germany and Slovakia – Together for a More Effective Union**

What are main elements of Eurozone-reform? What does the Franco-German tandem aim at? How to manage the East-West and North-South divides? What do MFF negotiations mean for the reform debate? What are possible implications of the elections to the European parliament? How ready are we for Brexit? Which areas of cooperation could Germany and Slovakia advance together?

Speakers

Sibylle Katharina Sorg, Deputy General Director for Europe, German MFA

Mária Malová, Director, Department for EU Relations, Slovak MFA

Kai-Olaf Lang, Senior Fellow, SWP

Vladimír Bilčík, Head of EU Programme, SFPA

Chair: Zuzana Gabrižová, Editor-In-Chief, EurActiv.sk

13:00 - 14:00 **Lunch Break**

14.00 – 15.30 **The EU and the Western Balkans**

How to assess the outcomes of the Sofia EU-Western Balkans Summit, particularly the practical proposals of the Sofia Priority Agenda? What does the reinforced engagement of other actors present in the region - especially Russia, China and Turkey – mean for the EU's position? What is the role of the Berlin Plus process? Where are the priorities for the Visegrád Group in its cooperation with the Western Balkan countries? How to assess developments in the region, particularly the Serbia-Kosovo relations, Macedonia and Bosnia and Hercegovina?

Speakers

Christiane Hullmann, Political Department, German MFA

Ján Pšenica, Director of Territorial Department for W. Balkans, Slovak MFA

Milan Nič, Senior Fellow, DGAP

Tomáš Strážay, Head of Central and Southeast European Program, SFPA

Chair: Matthias Jobelius, Head of Department for Central and Eastern Europe, FES

15.30 **Concluding Remarks**

Vladimír Bilčík, Head of EU Program, SFPA

Kai-Olaf Lang, Senior Fellow, SWP