

No. 54714*

**Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia
and
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

**Agreement concerning the establishment of the Western Balkans Fund (with annex). Prague,
13 November 2015**

Entry into force: *25 May 2017, in accordance with article 4*

Authentic text: *English*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *Albania, 1 September 2017*

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**Albanie, Bosnie-Herzégovine, Monténégro, Serbie
et
Ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine**

**Accord relative à la création du Fonds des Balkans occidentaux (avec annexe). Prague,
13 novembre 2015**

Entrée en vigueur : *25 mai 2017, conformément à l'article 4*

Texte authentique : *anglais*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies : *Albanie,
1^{er} septembre 2017*

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**AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE WESTERN BALKANS FUND**

The Governments of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia, (hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties"),

Guided by the provisions of the Western Balkans Joint Statement signed on 31 October 2014 in Bratislava,

HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Western Balkans Fund (hereinafter referred to as the "Fund") with its seat in Tirana is hereby established.

Article 2

The Statute of the Fund is hereby adopted and shall constitute an annex hereto.

Article 3

This Agreement and its annex thereto may be amended in writing by the consent of all Contracting Parties.

Article 4

1. This Agreement shall be opened for signature by the Contracting Parties.

2. This Agreement shall be adopted pursuant to the relevant legislation of each Contracting Party and shall enter into force as of the day on which the last instrument certifying adoption hereof is deposited with the Government of the Republic of Albania, acting as the Depositary.

Article 5

The Government of the Republic of Albania, acting as the Depositary, shall notify all Contracting Parties of the deposit of all instruments certifying adoption, the entry into force hereof, as well as of any other facts connected with this Agreement.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence.

Article 6

1. Each Contracting Party may withdraw from this Agreement at any time by written notification to the Depositary, which shall then transmit a certified copy of that notification to each Contracting Party.
2. Withdrawal shall take effect six months from the date on which the notification was received by the Depositary.
3. The dissolution of the Fund in accordance with the Fund Statute shall constitute termination of this Agreement in its relations with all other Contracting Parties.

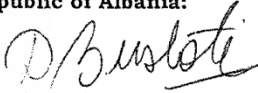
Article 7

1. The Government of Albania shall act as Depositary of this Agreement.
2. The original of this Agreement in a single copy in the English language shall be deposited with the Depositary which shall transmit a certified copy to each Contracting Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement

Done at Prague, on the thirteenth day of November in the year two thousand fifteen in a single original in the English language.

Republic of Albania:



Bosnia and Herzegovina:



Kosovo*:



Republic of Macedonia:



Montenegro:



Republic of Serbia:



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence.

ANNEX 1

STATUTE OF THE WESTERN BALKANS FUND

CHAPTER ONE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Article 1

The purpose of the Fund shall be to promote:

- the development of closer cooperation between the Contracting Parties;
- the strengthening of ties between the Contracting Parties;
- the integration of the Contracting Parties into the European Union;
- common presentation of the Contracting Parties in third countries.

Article 2

The objectives of the Fund shall be pursued through financial support of activities in any fields which contribute to cross-border and inter-regional cooperation, and to the strengthening of regional cohesion, in particular in the following areas:

- promotion and development of cultural cooperation;
- promotion and development of scientific exchanges, research and cooperation in the field of education between the Contracting parties;
- promotion and development of exchanges between young people;
- promotion of sustainable development of the Contracting Parties.

Cooperation between the Contracting Parties in these fields regulated under other international treaties shall not be affected.

Article 3

The Fund can support projects originating in countries other than the Contracting Parties, provided that they shall have at least two (2) co-organizing partners from the Contracting Parties and that the topic of the projects shall be related to the Western Balkans region.

CHAPTER TWO SEAT AND MEMBERSHIP

Article 4

The Contracting Parties to the present Agreement shall be the Founders of the Fund. The seat of the Fund shall be in Tirana, Republic of Albania.

CHAPTER THREE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Article 5

The governing bodies of the Fund shall be:

- The Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs;
- The Council of Senior Officials;
- The Executive Director.
- The Secretariat;

Article 6

The Fund shall have and use, as occasion may require, a Seal having a device or impression with the inscription "Western Balkans Fund". The Seal of the Fund shall be kept in the custody of the Executive Director.

**CHAPTER FOUR
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Article 7

The Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall be the supreme body of the Fund.

Article 8

The Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall be composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Contracting Parties or their duly authorized representatives.

Article 9

The Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall designate from among its members its Chairperson, with the Chairmanship-in-Office rotating in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Contracting Parties.

Article 10

The term of office of the Chairperson of the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall be one year and not renewable.

Article 11

The Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall approve the budget of the Fund, annual statements and clearance of budget presented by the Council of Senior Officials.

The Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall define the Contracting Parties annual contributions and their due dates.

Article 12

The Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall approve the annual and long-term plans regarding activities of the Fund.

Article 13

The Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall approve applications for Membership to WBF and their admission to the WBF.

Article 14

The Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall adopt/ approve the Rules of Procedure of the Secretariat and may decide on amendments thereto.