

**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 Depository, 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 Depository.
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 Depository of this Agreement.
2. The original of this Agreement in a single copy in the English language shall be deposited with the Depository 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;

