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Monday, 15 July 2013



### SPECIAL SECTION - How to stop Balkans enlargement from turning sour

Autumn 2010  
by Europe's World  
★★★★★

**Doubts about the European Union's commitment to extending membership to the western Balkans are being reinforced by the slow pace of reform in many of the candidate countries**

EUROPE'S WORLD - SUMMER 2012 - #21  
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**What do YOU think?**

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#### THINK TANK EUROPE NETWORK

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**Europe's World** asks a cross-section of decisionmakers and opinion-formers for their ideas on how to get the accession process firmly back on track.



**"People in the Balkans need to feel the tangible benefits of EU accession"**



by **Audronius Azubalis**, Lithuania's Minister of Foreign Affairs



### "EU enlargement on its own is not a credible foreign policy"

by **Kurt Bassuener**, Senior Associate of the Democratisation Policy Council



### "Balkan countries may have to accede to the EU en bloc to avert growing bi-lateral tensions"

by **Erhard Busek**, Co-ordinator of the South-Eastern Co-operative Initiative (SECI) and former Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe



### "The rationale for further EU enlargement must not become the focus of dispute"

by **Vladimir Drobnyak**, Croatia's chief negotiator for accession negotiations with the EU



### "The test of leadership will be in how it seeks to create viable multi-ethnic societies"

by **Pieter Feith**, EU Special Representative to Kosovo



### "The EU must provide guidance and encouragement through tangible initiatives"

by **Franco Frattini**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy



### "The four C-words: credibility, consistency, commitment, courage"

by **Štefan Füle**, EU Commissioner for enlargement and neighbourhood policy



### "Balkan countries need to engage with the EU in more predictable and effective partnerships"

by **Venera Hajrullahu**, Executive Director of the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation



### "The greatest obstacles to enlargement are unresolved bi-lateral disputes"

by **Werner Hoyer**, Minister of State at the German Foreign Office



### "EU accession is simply an opportunity that can't be missed"

by **Skender Hyseni**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo



### "Coherent public messages must to explain to Europeans why Balkan integration is so important"

by **Valentin Inzko**, EU High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina



### "The EU should enter into a long-term and neutral engagement over Kosovo"

by **Oliver Ivanovic**, Serbia's State Secretary for Kosovo and Metohija



### "EU enlargement has been the only viable policy for the western Balkans"

by **Gordan Jandrokovic**, Croatia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration



### "The key to the enlargement is maintaining the right political temperature"

by **Eduard Kukan**, Former Foreign Affairs Minister of Slovakia



### "Better management of domestic demand is key to next stage of economic growth"

by **Philippe Maystadt**, President of the European Investment Bank



### "Even Iceland's candidacy is expected to create positive momentum for the Balkans"

by **Antonio Milošoski**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

show cases their own publications and reports and is also a bulletin board for their upcoming events.

### Ripping into TTIP? Debates Surrounding the Upcoming EU-U.S. Negotiations

by *Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)*

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by *Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)*

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by *Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)*

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What do YOU think are the key policy problems that Europe must resolve? What ideas need a Europe-wide airing? This section is open to your contributions.

#### LATEST POSTS



### Re-drafting the Fundamental Bank Dealing Confidence Pillars

by *Yordan Radev*



### water damage Manhattan Beach

by *Todd Carter*



### water damage Los Angeles

by *Camille Hallett*



### dentist scottsdale, dentist scottsdale az, dentist in scottsdale az

by *SMITH JONES*

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### "There is a need to allay the fears of EU citizens over enlargement"

by **Milan Roćen**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Montenegro



### "Social cohesion is a necessary ingredient for progress in difficult economic times"

by **Imre Tarafás**, Vice-Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank



### "Both the EU and the Balkans need to ask themselves hard questions"

by **Romana Vlahutin**, Adviser on SouthEast Europe to the President of Croatia



### "Focus should move away from political issues and return to the technical"

by **Alida Vracic**, Director and founder of the Sarajevo think-tank Populari



### "Enlargement fatigue is not an option"

by **Ivan Vejvoda**, Executive director of the Balkan Trust for Democracy, German Marshall Fund of the United States



### "The questions over Kosovo's sovereignty still loom large over the integration process"

by **Lamberto Zannier**, UN Special Representative for Kosovo



### "New EU measures should certainly include visa liberalisation"

by **Samuel Žbogar**, Slovenia's Minister of Foreign Affairs

## EW BACKGROUND BRIEFING

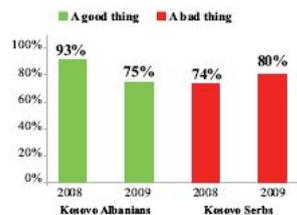
### The independence honeymoon is over

When Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in February 2008 there was great optimism among the territory's ethnic Albanians, if not among ethnic Serbs. A year later, and despite international recognition for independent Kosovo, a Gallup survey revealed growing disillusion with the new status among those who had been so hopeful. Although three-quarters of Kosovo Albanians said they felt independence had been a good thing, this was considerably fewer than the 93% who had greeted the unilateral declaration of independence in 2008. Ethnic Serbs, meanwhile, became yet more convinced that independence had been a mistake: 80% said it was a 'bad thing' in 2009, compared to 74% a year earlier.

Doubts also grew within both communities about the possibility of peaceful coexistence. In 2008, over seven out of ten Kosovo Albanians had said that they could live peacefully with ethnic Serbs. This fell to six out of ten in 2009. Kosovo Serbs, always sceptical on the question, became even more so: in 2008, 17% thought peaceful coexistence was possible, but by 2009 this had shrunk to 12%.

#### FEWER KOSOVO ALBANIANS FIND INDEPENDENCE TO BE A 'GOOD THING', KOSOVO SERBS GROWING EVER MORE CRITICAL

In your opinion, has the independence of Kosovo turned out to be a good or bad thing?



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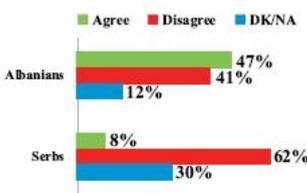
### No deal on Kosovo home-rule in exchange for EU membership, say Serbs

Would Serbia be prepared to trade sovereignty over Kosovo for membership of the EU? Not according to a Gallup poll in which 70% opposed the suggestion that Serbia relinquish its claim over its southern province in return for joining the EU. About the same proportion felt that Kosovo 'has to remain a part of Serbia' and said that Serbia would never recognise Kosovo. At the same time, a relative majority of 43% seemed resigned to accept that Kosovo would be independent one day, regardless of what Serbia did to prevent it.

In Kosovo, meanwhile, the International Civilian Representative and EU Special Representative has a thankless task: neither of the territory's two largest ethnic groups is convinced of the benefits of an international presence. In the 2009 Gallup poll more ethnic Serbs and ethnic Albanians saw no need for an international presence. A considerable number of ethnic Albanians nevertheless expressed support for the work being done by the EULEX mission for maintaining stability and security in the disputed territory. Kosovo Serbs, by contrast, were dismissive of its role.

#### NEITHER OF KOSOVO'S ETHNIC GROUPS BACKS THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE THERE

Is EULEX doing a good job of maintaining security and stability in Kosovo?



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