**Third Meeting on Donor Coordination in the Western Balkans
Agenda**

Sarajevo, 16 March 2017

**Wednesday, 15 March 2017**

Venue: Hotel Holiday, Café Inn (Zmaja od Bosne 4, 71000 Sarajevo)

20:00 Champion of Regional Cooperation 2016/Cocktail reception

 *The annual award of the Regional Cooperation Council for the best achievement in cooperation in South East Europe will be presented by the RCC Secretary General*

**Thursday, 16 March 2017**

Venue: Hotel Holiday, Congress Hall (Zmaja od Bosne 4, 71000 Sarajevo)

08.30 - 09.00 **Registration**

09.00 - 09.30 **Welcome Address**

H.E. Goran SVILANOVIĆ, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat

 Mr. Nicholas CENDROWICZ, Deputy Head of Unit, DG NEAR, European Commission

09.30-11.30 **Panel on Economic development: needs and priorities in the region**

*The panel will provide an overview of the ongoing trends, needs and work done in terms of sustainable economic development. The panel will also serve as a platform to discuss from different perspectives the past and current donor interventions, as well as the needs and priorities for the period 2017 – 2019.*

Moderated by: **H.E. Aleksandar Andrija PEJOVIĆ, Minister of European Affairs, Montenegro**

* *EIB Economic Resilience Initiative –* ***Mr. Matteo RIVELLINI, Head of Division Landing Operations in Slovenia, Croatia and Western Balkans, European Investment Bank***
* *Challenges in business environment in South East Europe –* ***Ms. Lada BUŠEVAC, Senior Country Officer, IFC, World Bank Group***
* *Employment: Challenges of the job creation in the region -* ***H.E. Arban ABRASHI, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of Kosovo[[1]](#footnote-1)\****
* *Regional Connectivity agenda: state of play and way forward –* ***Mr. Nicholas CENDROWICZ,* *Deputy Head of Unit, DG NEAR, European Commission***
* *Digital connectivity and digitization of WB in support of economic growth –* ***H.E. Milena HARITO, Minister for Innovation and Public Administration of Albania***

*Discussion and Q&A*

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee break/ Family Photo

12.00 – 13.30 **Panel on Rule of Law and Security: achievements and demands**

*The panel will provide an overview of the ongoing trends, needs and work done in the area of Public Administration Reform, Rule of Law, freedom of expression, as part of the “fundamentals first approach” of the EC Enlargement Strategy. Current security challenges will also be addressed. Representatives from the Western Balkan Governments, the donors and the implementing partners will discuss previous experiences and ongoing activities, as well as the needs and priorities for the period 2017 – 2019.*

Moderated by: **Ms. Sanja DIMITRIEVSKA, State Secretary, Ministry of Interior, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

* *Public Administration Reform: needs and priorities –* ***Ms. Ratka SEKULOVIC, Director, Regional School for Public Administration***
* *Improved competence and efficiency of judiciaries as result of regional activities –* ***Mr. Gazmend TURDIU, Head of Programme Department, Deputy Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat***
* *Donor support for regional anti-corruption efforts –* ***Ms.******Monika TORTSCHANOFF, Programme Manager Western Balkans/Danube Region, Austrian Development Agency***
* *Regional perspectives on civil society development and freedom of expression –* ***Ms.******Hedvig MORVAI, Executive Director, European Fund for the Balkans***
* *Security issues: Prevention and countering of violent extremism of South East Europe –* ***Mr.******Mario JANEČEK, Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Hercegovina***

*Discussion and Q&A*

13.30 - 14.00 **Conclusions and** **Closing of the Meeting**

**Mr. Gazmend TURDIU, Head of Programme Department, Deputy Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat**

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14:00 Lunch

1. \* 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)