

**INVITATION****Roundtable Discussion****Normalisation? The EU-led Serbia-Kosovo dialogue process seen from Kosovo and the Preševo valley (Serbia)**

**Date** Thursday, 21 March 2019  
**Venue** Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union  
Rue du Luxembourg 47 – 51, 1050 Brussels  
**Time** 10:00 – 12:00

20 years after the Kosovo war, the political and the economic situation both in Kosovo and in Serbia are far from stable. State institutions remain to be weak, rule of law is threatened, and informal group interests and party affiliations seem to dominate political and economic decision-making.

As the biggest stumble stone on the way to systemic reform and approximation with the EU, one usually refers to the failure of both Serbia and Kosovo to find a lasting political solution to their conflict about Kosovo's secession and subsequent declaration of independence. The EU – split into a majority of recognisers and a minority of refusers – has tried to play a mediation role that led to the 2013 Brussels agreement regulating the status of ethnic Serbian communities in Kosovo, the integration of police forces and the organisation of local elections. Since then, numerous rounds of further negotiations have neither produced a full implementation of the Brussels agreement nor any other breakthrough regarding the principle political questions of the dispute.

Against the background of a deterring political situation in the region and growing pressure from the EU and the US to deliver on the 'normalisation chapter', since summer 2018 rumours have spread about a fresh, comprehensive 'package deal' between the presidents of Serbia and Kosovo, Vučić and Thaçi, which envisages a political solution based on a land swap between Albanian populated territory in Serbia and Serbian populated parts of Northern Kosovo. Reportedly, this potential deal has already met significant support both in the US administration and in EU institutions.

During our roundtable discussion, we will focus on the current situation in and around Kosovo and the 'normalisation process' with guests from Prishtina, North Mitrovica (both Kosovo) and Preševo (Serbia). What is their view on the current challenges, risks and threats? How do they perceive a potential 'land swap solution'? What are their proposals for a possible way forward?

## Programme

**09:30 – 10:00**

**Registration**

**10:00 – 10:15**

**Welcome by Ellen Ueberschär**, President, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Berlin

**10:15 – 10:30**

**Input by Adelheid Wölfl**, Balkan Correspondent of “Der Standard”, Vienna

**Comment by Thomas Waitz**, Member of the European Parliament, The Greens/EFA

**10:30 – 12:00**

**Roundtable discussion**

- **Shqiprim Arifi**, Mayor, Preševo
- **Izabella Kisic**, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Belgrade
- **Fisnik Korenica**, Group for Legal and Political Studies, Pristina

**Moderation by Simon Ilse**, Head of Office, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo (Belgrade)

This invitation is personal and the event will be held under Chatham House Rule\*. We hope you will be able to join us and kindly ask you to **register before 20 March via this [link](#)**.

Kind regards,

**Zora Siebert**

Head of EU Policy Programme

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\*Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. Taking photographs, video or audio recordings as well as any kind of activities on social media are not allowed during the meeting.