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Regional Launching of the European Union/Council of Europe Joint Programme “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – Phase II”

Draft agenda

9 October 2019

**Hotel Aleksandar Palace (Blvd. 8 Septemvri, no. 15)
Skopje, North Macedonia**

9:00-9:30 *Registration of participants*

9:30-10:00 **Opening remarks**

Mr Nikola Dimitrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia

Ms Verena Taylor, Director, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe

Mr Colin Wolfe, Head of Unit, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

10:00-13:00 **Parallel thematic workshops**

I. Session 1: For your rights: Ensuring Justice

Moderator: Mr Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Serbia

- How to ensure sustainable public trust in the justice systems? How to increase the visibility of reform processes and their effect on citizens?
- How to include a gender perspective in reform processes? How do you make it effective and sustainable?

II. Session 2: For your rights: Fighting Corruption, Economic Crime and Organised Crime

Moderator: Ms Jutta Gützkow, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Albania

- Brief outline of the Regional Action against Economic Crime
- Overview of international standards/regulation and good practices, including effective mechanisms, implementing measures and international co-operation to enhance the transparency of Beneficial Ownership
- Beneficiary-specific presentations (current state of play, progress and priorities)

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III. Session 3: For your rights: Combatting Discrimination and Protecting Rights of Vulnerable Groups

Moderator: Mr Niall Crowley, Equality and Human Rights Expert

- How to advance the implementation of anti-discrimination policies and strengthen Beneficiary-specific action on salient human rights issues?
- Shifting focus from activities to policy outcomes in protecting human rights and advancing equality and non-discrimination

IV. Session 4: For your rights: Freedom of Expression and Media - JUFREX

Moderator: Mr Drahošlav Štefánek, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Freedom of expression off-line and on-line, different actors, different roles
- How to strengthen data collection to better assess and report on results?

13:00-14:30 Buffet lunch

14:30-15:30 Plenary session I: Conclusions from the workshops

For your rights: Ensuring Justice

Rapporteur: Ms Eva Konecna, Liaison Officer, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

For your rights: Fighting Corruption, Economic Crime and Organised Crime

Rapporteurs: Mr Mustafa Ferati, Head of Unit, Council of Europe and Ms Ramandeep Chhina, Council of Europe expert

For your rights: Combatting Discrimination and Protecting Rights of Vulnerable Groups

Rapporteur: Mr Niall Crowley, Equality and Human Rights Expert

For your rights: Freedom of Expression and Media – JUFREX

Rapporteur: Ms Flutura Kusari, Legal Expert on Freedom of Expression

Discussion

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

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16:00-17:30 **Plenary session II: How to effectively translate Horizontal Facility II objectives into tangible benefits for citizens of the Western Balkans and Turkey**

Horizontal Facility Beneficiary Co-ordinators:

Ms Gorica Atanasova Gjorevska, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Skopje

Ms Krenare Bektashi, Ministry of European Integration, Pristina

Ms Övünç Güneş, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ankara

Ms Amra Hadžiosmanović, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sarajevo

Ms Bruna Minarolli, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tirana

Ms Marija Oros Janković, Ministry of European Integration, Belgrade

Ms Milena Šofranac, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Podgorica

Discussion

17:30-18:00 **Concluding remarks**

Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia (TBC)

***Ms Jutta Pomoell Segurola, Head of Sector, Directorate- General for
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations***

***Ms Delphine Freymann, Head of Programming Division, Office of the Directorate
General of Programmes, Council of Europe***