

Wednesday 5 June, 08:30—10:30

Press Club Brussels Europe, Rue Froissart 95

North Macedonia: Accelerating Reforms, Accelerating European Integration

A conversation with Zoran Zaev, Prime Minister of North Macedonia,

Christian Danielsson, Director General DG NEAR

and Pierre Heilbronn, Vice President of the EBRD

With the Prespa Agreement, Skopje and Athens put an end to a nearly 30-year long dispute. A lot is at stake for the country now named “North Macedonia”: from NATO membership to EU accession, as well as a number of key domestic reforms.

We are pleased to invite you to a breakfast event where we will discuss progress achieved by Skopje linked to economic development, prospects & challenges and headline structural reforms needed for the country’s EU accession aspirations.

Topics to be addressed will include progress relating to rule of law and the fight against corruption, in particular the prosecution and final convictions in pending cases including at high level; how to maintain the independence of the Special Prosecutor; Reform of the Public Administration as well as Public Procurement to ensure more favourable business environment. Is the Prime Minister's approach to inclusive governance shared by all the political parties in North Macedonia? Is the country ready to open EU accession negotiations and has the necessary structures in place?

Prime Minister Zoran Zaev, Director General DG NEAR, Christian Danielsson and EBRD Vice-President Pierre Heilbronn will discuss North Macedonia’s role in the Western Balkans region, achievements and challenges in implementing reform agenda and the strategic priorities for EU accession.

The audience will be an integral part of the event with interactive moderation by Erwan Fouéré, Associate Senior Research Fellow at CEPS, former EU Special Representative and Head of EU Delegation.

This event is by invitation only. Registration on the website of CEPS (www.ceps.eu) is mandatory and participation will be confirmed via email prior to the date of the event.

Please contact the Morgane Moreau (brusselsoffice@ebrd.com) or Anne-Marie Boudou (amboudou@ceps.eu) for any further information.

AGENDA

08h30-09h00:	Registration & light breakfast
09h00-09h10:	Keynote speech by Prime Minister Zoran Zaev
09h10-09h20:	Keynote speech by Director General, DG NEAR, Christian Danielsson
09h20-09h50:	Panel discussion
09h50-10h25:	Q&A
10h25-10h30:	Concluding remarks by Charlotte Ruhe, EBRD Managing Director for Central and South Eastern Europe.

*Gwilym Jones
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