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Parliamentary Dimension
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council
of the European Union

**Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy
(CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)
15-17 February 2018, Sofia**

Thursday, 15 Feb 2018

	Arrival of delegations
12:00 – 19:30	Conference registration at the hotels
19:30	Departure by bus from the hotel to the National Archaeological Institute with Museum
20:00 – 21:30	Welcome Reception, National Archaeological Institute with Museum – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences <i>Venue: National Archaeological Institute with Museum – BAS, Saborna Str. 2, Sofia 1000</i>

Friday, 16 Feb 2018

09:00 – 12:00	Conference registration at the hotels
9:00	Departure by bus from the hotels to the Troika meeting (Estonia, Bulgaria, Austria) and European Parliament
Conference Venue:	National Palace of Culture, Bulgaria Sq. 1, Sofia 1463
9:30 – 10:00	Meeting of the Presidency Troika and the European Parliament, Hall 7.1, 5th Floor
11:00	Departure by bus from the hotels for the heads of delegations meeting
11:30 – 12:30	Heads of Delegations Meeting, Hall 7, 5th Floor
12:00 - 12:30	Departure by bus from the hotels to the conference





venue

12:30 – 13:00

Meetings of Political Groups

13:00 – 14:30

Buffet Lunch, Hall 3.2, 7th Floor

14:30 – 15:00

Opening Session, Hall 3, 7th Floor

- Welcome speech by **Ms Tsveta Karayancheva**, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Opening Remarks by **Ms Dzhema Grozdanova**, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Opening Remarks by **Mr David McAllister**, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament

15:00-17:00

Session I: Priorities and Strategies of the EU in the Area of CFSP and CSDP, Hall 3, 7th Floor

Speaker:

- **Ms Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice- President of the European Commission

Moderators: **Ms Dzhema Grozdanova**, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

General (ret.) Constantin Popov, Chairperson of the Defense Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

Debate

17:00

Return to the hotels by bus

18:30

Departure from the hotels by bus to the National History Museum

19:00 – 19:45

Guided Tour at the Museum – Discovering the Ancient Treasures of Bulgaria



19:45 – 20:00 Departure from the Museum to the dinner venue

20:00 – 21:30 **Dinner with traditional Bulgarian folklore**
Venue: *Boyana Residence, Vitoshko Lale 16, Sofia 1618*

Saturday, 17 Feb 2018

08:30 Departure by bus from hotels to the conference venue

Conference Venue: National Palace of Culture, Bulgaria Sq. 1, Sofia 1463

09:00 – 10:30 **Session II: Accelerating Reforms in View of European Perspective for the Western Balkans, Hall 3, 7th Floor**
Speakers:

- **Ms Ekaterina Zaharieva**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria /Inclusiveness and perspectives/
- **Mr Eduard Kukan**, Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee in the European Parliament
- **Mr Thomas Mayr-Harting**, EEAS Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia
- **Mr Gerald Knaus**, Founding Chairman of the European Stability Initiative /Migration and demographic challenges/

Moderator: **Ms Vessela Tcherneva**, Director of ECFR
Sofia
Debate

10:30 **Family Photo**

10:35 – 11:00 **Coffee break**



11:00 – 12:00

Workshops (in English), Halls 7, 8 and 9, 5th Floor

1. Strategic Energy and Transport Connectivity in the Western Balkans

Speakers:

- **Mr Goran Svilanović**, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council, Foreign Minister of Serbia (2000-2004)
- **Mr Zhecho Stankov**, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria

Moderator: **Mr Assen Agov**, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria (1997-2001)

2. Danube Strategy

Speakers:

- **Ms Rozália-Ibolya Biró**, Chairperson of the Committee for Foreign Policy Chamber of Deputies of Romania
- **Ms Denitsa Nikolova**, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria

Moderator: **Mr Gábor Jenei**, National coordinator of the EUSDR, Secretariat of the Ministerial Commissioner for Water Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

3. EU-China Relations

Speakers:

- **Mr Georg Georgiev**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic Bulgaria
- **Dr Solomon Passy**, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria (2001-2005), President of the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria

Moderator: **Ms Bisserka Benisheva**, Director for EU Affairs at PanEuropa Bulgaria

12:00 – 13:00

Buffet Lunch, Restaurant Sky Plaza, 8th Floor



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13:15 – 13:30

Summary of the discussions of the workshops, Hall 3, 7th Floor

13:30 – 15:00

Session III: CSDP- Implementation of the EU Global Strategy, Hall 3, 7th Floor

- **Strengthening EU-NATO cooperation within the implementation of the Warsaw Declaration**
- **Development of the EU military capabilities**
- **Cyber-defense and strategic communications**

Speakers:

- **Mr Gabor Iklody**, EEAS Director for Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD)
- **Mr Mihnea Motoc**, Deputy Head of EPSC, Minister of Defense of Romania (2015-2017)
- **Mr Boyko Noev**, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria (1994-1995 and 1999-2001) and Ambassador to NATO (1996-1999)
- **Prof. Todor Tagarev**, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria (2013)

Moderator: **General (ret.) Constantin Popov**,
Chairperson of the Defense Committee of the National
Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria
Debate

15:00-15:15

Coffee break

15:15 – 16:45

Session IV: State of Play of the Black Sea Region, Hall 3, 7th Floor

Speakers:

- **Mr Asaf Hajiyevev**, PABSEC Secretary General
- **Mr Ivailo Kalfin**, Special Advisor to EU Commissioner Oettinger, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria (2005-2009)
- **Mr Thomas Mayr-Harting**, EEAS Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia

Moderator: **Mr Ioan Mircea Pascu**, Vice-President of the European Parliament



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Debate

16:45 -17:00

Presentation of Conference Documents

Ms Dzhema Grozdanova, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

17:00 – 17:15

Closing remarks

General (ret.) Constantin Popov, Chairperson of the Defense Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria