



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

ONLINE SEMINAR
Russia-EU relations and the Western Balkans
June 8, 2020, 14:00-16:00

14:00-14:30 Opening

Chair:

Andrey KORTUNOV, RIAC Director General

Speakers:

Igor IVANOV, RIAC President

Angelina EICHHORST, EEAS Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia

Tomislav CAR, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the Russian Federation

14:30-15:50 Discussion: Russia-EU relations and the Western Balkans

Chair:

Ivan TIMOFEEV, RIAC Director of Programs

Speakers:

Dmitry BALAKIN, Deputy Director of the Department for European Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia

Anvar AZIMOV, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Croatia

Stribor KIKEREC, Acting Director-General for Southeast Europe, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

Comments from RIAC members and experts:

Olga BUTORINA, Deputy Director, Institute of Europe, RAS; **Ekaterina ENTINA**, Deputy Dean, Higher School of Economics; **Alexander PIVOVARENKO**, Senior Research Associate, Institute of Slavonic Studies RAS

Issues for discussion:

- *Changes and continuities in Russia-EU relations during 2020, including in Western Balkans region*
- *Priorities and goals of the Croatian presidency and how they have been transformed due to COVID-19 pandemic*
- *What are Brussels and Moscow's long-term vision for the Western Balkans region?*
- *What are opportunities and challenges for Russia-EU cooperation in the region?*
- *What steps should Russia and the EU take to minimize risk of instability in the region?*

Questions and answers from the audience

15:50-16:00 Concluding remarks

Igor IVANOV, RIAC President

Markus EDERER, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to the Russian Federation

Tomislav CAR, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the Russian Federation