



KPDS #5 · 15–16 October 2026 · Pristina

Age of Entropy: Fragmentation, Fatigue, and the Search for Order

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5th edition

Age of Entropy: Fragmentation, Fatigue, and the Search for Order

15–16 October 2026, Pristina

 **VENUE**
Hotel Venus, Pristina

Welcome



Dear friends and colleagues, on behalf of the New Social Initiative (NSI), Kosovo Civic Alternative (KCA) and the European Institute of Peace (EIP), we warmly welcome you to the fifth edition of the Kosovo Peace and Democracy Summit.

Since 2022, KPDS has grown into a trusted regional platform for open and constructive dialogue in the Western Balkans. Each year it brings together policy experts, civil society representatives, European Union officials, diplomats and academics from the region and beyond to connect policy and practice, and to give space to local perspectives alongside international ones.

This year's theme, **Age of Entropy: Fragmentation, Fatigue, and the Search for Order**, reflects a moment when old certainties are giving way. The Kosovo–Serbia dialogue has lost momentum and trust remains fragile. Geopolitical competition and shifting alliances are reshaping the region's security, and EU enlargement is moving slowly and losing credibility. As fatigue sets in, the risk is that drift becomes the new normal.

Our programme asks what it will take to restore direction. We will examine whether the dialogue has entered a phase of managed stagnation or strategic neglect, and what this means for communities and for civil society's ability to promote normalisation. We will look at how geopolitical competition and external pressures

are reshaping regional security, and ask whether a renewed vision for EU accession is still possible.

Alongside the open conference day, two closed-door conversations under the Chatham House Rule – the Dinner Talks and the Night Owl Session – offer space for candid exchange between policymakers, diplomats and experts on the questions that matter most for Kosovo's Euro-Atlantic future and for relations between Kosovo and Serbia.

We are grateful to the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the National Endowment for Democracy and the European Fund for the Balkans, whose continued support makes this Summit possible. We thank our speakers and moderators, and each of you for being part of the conversation.

We hope the next two days will spark honest debate, new connections and practical ideas for a more peaceful, democratic and European future for our region.

**New Social Initiative
Kosovo Civic Alternative
European Institute of Peace**

Meet our speakers



Dr Ardita Abazi Imeri

Programme Director and co-founder, European Policy Institute (EPI) – Skopje

Policy expert with more than 17 years of experience in EU integration, enlargement policy, rule of law and democratic governance in North Macedonia and the Western Balkans. She has led regional research on the EU's enlargement methodology, including through the Think for Europe Network. Before founding EPI, she worked at North Macedonia's Secretariat for European Affairs, and she has served on the Strategic Council of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Edward P. Joseph

Foreign policy analyst, conflict management expert and lecturer, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

Foreign policy analyst and conflict management expert who lectures at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He delivers the keynote address and moderates the closed-door Dinner Talks on 15 October.



Đorđe Bojović

Parliamentary Advisor, European Parliament

Strategic Advisor on Foreign Policy and the Western Balkans for the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament, a role he has held across two parliamentary mandates. He previously worked at the European Commission, focusing on EU enlargement, the Serbia–Kosovo Dialogue, regional cooperation, democracy and human rights. He holds an LL.M. in European Law from the College of Europe and an MSc from the London School of Economics.



Ian Bancroft

Freelance Consultant

Writer and former diplomat based in the Western Balkans. He served as EULEX's coordinator for the north, based in Mitrovica, as acting head of EULEX's Regional Liaison Office in Belgrade, and as head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina's Brčko Office. He has written for The Guardian, Balkan Insight and Radio Free Europe, and is the author of 'The Bosnian Straitjacket', 'Dragon's Teeth – Tales from North Kosovo' and the novel 'Luka'.

Meet our speakers



Flamur Junuzi

Coordination Officer, CEFTA Secretariat, Brussels

Supports regional cooperation and the implementation of the Common Regional Market agenda at the CEFTA Secretariat. He previously worked in the Political Section of the European Union Office / EU Special Representative in Kosovo, covering policy developments, European integration, energy and digitalisation.



Goran Svilanović

Diplomat and former Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council

PhD in Law and member of the High-Level Group for EU Neighbourhood Interdependences. He served as Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (2013–2018), Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (2008–2012), and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia / State Union of Serbia and Montenegro (2000–2004).



Klodiana Beshku

Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Tirana

Teaches European integration, EU foreign policy and geopolitics. Her research focuses on EU enlargement, the Western Balkans and the geopolitics of the European Union, and she has published extensively on EU–Western Balkans relations, Europeanisation and regional security. She has been a visiting researcher and lecturer at several European institutions, including the European University Institute in Florence.



Dr Lorenca Bejko

Human rights expert, academic and former diplomat

Specialist in EU policy, public international law and sustainable development. She served as Chargé d’Affaires and First Secretary/Counsellor at the Embassy of Albania in the Netherlands and as Albania’s Co-Permanent Representative to the OPCW. A university lecturer in human rights, international law and EU law, she has represented Albania with the EPP in the European Committee of the Regions since 2024.

Meet our speakers



Marko Makovec

Principal Adviser for Reconciliation and Normalisation for the Western Balkans, DG ENEST, European Commission

Slovenian diplomat who joined the EEAS in 2020 as Director and Deputy Managing Director for Western Europe, the Western Balkans, Turkey and the United Kingdom. He previously served as Slovenia's Ambassador to the EU Political and Security Committee and as Principal Foreign Policy Adviser to the President (2013–2017) and the Prime Minister (2008–2012) of Slovenia.



Milica Andrić Rakić

Executive Director, New Social Initiative (NSI)

Researcher, activist and former journalist working in Kosovo's and Serbia's civil society and international sectors. Her focus is the rights of non-majority communities in Kosovo and the normalisation of relations between Belgrade and Pristina. She is the author or co-author of dozens of reports and policy proposals, and has written for Deutsche Welle, BIRN, European Western Balkans and KoSSev.



Marko Prelec

Independent analyst and consultant to the International Crisis Group

Has studied and worked on the Balkans since 1990. He helped investigate and prosecute atrocities in the former Yugoslavia with the International Tribunal in The Hague, and served as Crisis Group's Balkans Project Director (2009–2013). He founded the Balkans Policy Research Group in Pristina. He holds a PhD in European history from Yale.



Miodrag Miki Marinković

Executive Director, Center for Affirmative Social Action (CASA)

Civic activist, law graduate and policy researcher with more than two decades of experience in civil society, international organisations and policy work in Kosovo. His work focuses on community rights, interethnic relations and democratic governance. He is a key initiator of the Barabar Centre in Pristina, and previously held senior roles with NGO Aktiv, the European Commission, EULEX and the International Civilian Office.

Meet our speakers



Mirko Dautović

Adjunct Professor of International Relations, Webster University in Tashkent

Commentator on international affairs for regional media in the Western Balkans. He teaches International Relations and History at Webster University in Tashkent, and was previously engaged at the OSCE Mission in Serbia, the Embassy of Germany in Serbia, DAAD and the Dr Zoran Đinđić Foundation. He holds a master's degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge.



Naim Rashiti

Executive Director, Balkans Policy Research Group

Has over 20 years of experience in public policy, research, advocacy and European and international affairs. He has authored more than 100 reports on bilateral disputes, peacebuilding, governance, regional cooperation and EU integration in the Western Balkans, and has led political dialogue initiatives with parliamentary parties. He holds an MA from The Fletcher School at Tufts University.



Miruna Butnaru-Troncotă

Professor and Director, Centre of European Studies, SNSPA, Bucharest

Professor and PhD advisor at the National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA) in Bucharest. Her expertise is EU Foreign and Security Policy and the post-conflict reconstruction of the Western Balkans, on which she has published widely. She is part of the European Fund for the Balkans Alumni Network, and earlier worked with the Romanian Embassy in Sarajevo and the EU Delegation in Pristina.



Ramadan Ilazi

Member, Kosovo Civic Alternative (KCA)

Holds a PhD in Politics and International Relations from Dublin City University and an M.Litt. in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of St Andrews. He is a Research Fellow with ELIAMEP's South-East Europe Programme and served as Kosovo's Deputy Minister for European Integration (2015–2016). His books include 'Negotiating Peace in Kosovo' (2024) and 'The European Union and Everyday Statebuilding' (2022).

Meet our speakers



Rok Zupančič

Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana

Full Professor whose research focuses on international security and peacebuilding. He leads the Faculty's team in the research project Anxious Peace, is one of the editors of the Journal of Regional Security, and coordinates the PhD programme in Security Studies. From 2027 he will lead a project on somatic approaches to peacebuilding in Southeast European post-conflict societies.



Violeta Haxholli

Project Manager and Senior Researcher, Kosova Democratic Institute / Transparency International Kosova

Has over 12 years of experience in public policy research, democratic governance, transparency, accountability and European integration. She began her career at KIPRED in 2012 and joined KDI in 2016. Her work focuses on parliamentary oversight, anti-corruption, government accountability, institutional reform and the Kosovo–Serbia dialogue.



Senad Šabović

Senior Advisor, European Institute of Peace (EIP)

Has more than 15 years of experience in peacebuilding and development in the Western Balkans. At EIP he is a key expert on the Kosovo–Serbia normalisation process and was the primary drafter of an independent proposal for the statute of the Association/Community of Serb-majority Municipalities. He previously led political affairs and communications at the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and worked for the International Crisis Group.

Agenda at a glance



DAY 1 Thursday, 15 October

19:30 – 21:30 **Dinner Talks** [closed-door, by invitation]

All sessions take place at Hotel Venus, Pristina.
Closed-door sessions are held under the Chatham House Rule.

DAY 2 Friday, 16 October

09:30 – 10:00 Registration & Welcome Coffee

10:00 – 10:10 **Opening Remarks**

10:10 – 10:25 **Keynote Address**

10:30 – 11:30 **Panel I: Dialogue in Drift**

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:00 **Panel II: Fragmenting Order**

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:15 **Panel III: Enlargement in Slow Motion**

15:15 – 15:30 **Closing Remarks**

19:00 – 21:00 **Night Owl Session** [closed-door, by invitation]

Detailed agenda

DAY 1 Thursday, 15 October

19:30 – 21:30

CLOSED-DOOR · BY INVITATION

Dinner Talks: Overcoming the Institutional Crisis and Reinvigorating Kosovo's Euro-Atlantic Agenda

An informal, off-the-record discussion under the Chatham House Rule, convening policymakers, diplomats and experts for a candid exchange on political developments, regional dynamics and emerging risks in a context of growing fragmentation and uncertainty. The conversation focuses on promoting inter-party agreement and cooperation on key aspects of Kosovo's Euro-Atlantic integration, and on the immediate prospects once institutions are formed, with space for civil society to share key findings with political representatives and senior diplomats.

INTRODUCTION Representatives of Kosovo Civic Alternative (KCA) and New Social Initiative (NSI)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND MODERATOR **Edward P. Joseph**, foreign policy analyst, conflict management expert and lecturer, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

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Hotel Venus, Pristina

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Detailed agenda



DAY 2 Friday, 16 October · Main conference day

09:30 – 10:00 Registration & Welcome Coffee

10:00 – 10:10 Opening Remarks

- **Milica Andrić Rakić**, Executive Director, New Social Initiative (NSI)
 - **Senad Šabović**, European Institute of Peace (EIP), on behalf of Kosovo Civic Alternative (KCA)
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10:10 – 10:25 Keynote Address

- **Marko Makovec**, Principal Adviser for Reconciliation and Normalisation for the Western Balkans, DG ENEST, European Commission
-

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee Break

10:30 – 11:30

PANEL I

Dialogue in Drift: Kosovo–Serbia Relations Between Stagnation and Uncertainty

As momentum fades and trust remains fragile, this panel explores whether the dialogue has entered a phase of managed stagnation or strategic neglect, and what this means for communities and the effectiveness of civil society to promote normalisation.

MODERATOR **Violeta Haxholli**, Project Manager and Senior Researcher, Kosova Democratic Institute / Transparency International Kosova

- **Naim Rashiti**, Executive Director, Balkans Policy Research Group
 - **Goran Svilanović**, diplomat and former Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council
 - **Miodrag Miki Marinković**, Executive Director, Center for Affirmative Social Action
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Detailed agenda



DAY 2 Friday, 16 October · Main conference day

11:45 – 13:00

PANEL II

Fragmenting Order: Global Security Shifts and Their Impact on the Western Balkans

In an increasingly volatile global landscape, this discussion examines how geopolitical competition, shifting alliances, and external pressures are reshaping the region's security dynamics.

MODERATOR Ian Bancroft, Freelance Consultant

- **Mirko Dautović**, Adjunct Professor of International Relations, Webster University in Tashkent
- **Klodiana Beshku**, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Tirana
- **Miruna Butnaru-Troncotă**, Director, Centre of European Studies, SNSPA, Bucharest
- **Rok Zupančič**, Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:15

PANEL III

Enlargement in Slow Motion: Kosovo and the Western Balkans on the EU Path

With enlargement losing momentum and credibility, this panel addresses the political and structural constraints facing EU integration and whether a renewed vision for accession is still possible.

MODERATOR Ramadan Ilazi, Member, Kosovo Civic Alternative

- **Flamur Junuzi**, Coordination Officer, CEFTA Secretariat, Brussels
- **Đorđe Bojović**, Parliamentary Advisor, European Parliament
- **Dr Lorenca Bejko**, human rights expert, academic and former diplomat
- **Dr Ardita Abazi Imeri**, Programme Director and co-founder, European Policy Institute (EPI) – Skopje

15:15 – 15:30

Closing Remarks

Representative, Organizing Team

Detailed agenda

DAY 2 Friday, 16 October · Evening session

19:00 – 21:00

CLOSED-DOOR · BY INVITATION

Night Owl Session: Kosovo–Serbia 2030: Scenarios in an Age of Uncertainty

An invitation-only strategic discussion under the Chatham House Rule, exploring plausible trajectories of Kosovo–Serbia relations by 2030 and assessing risks, opportunities and policy choices in a context defined by fragmentation and limited predictability.

MODERATOR Marko Prelec, independent analyst and consultant to the International Crisis Group

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