

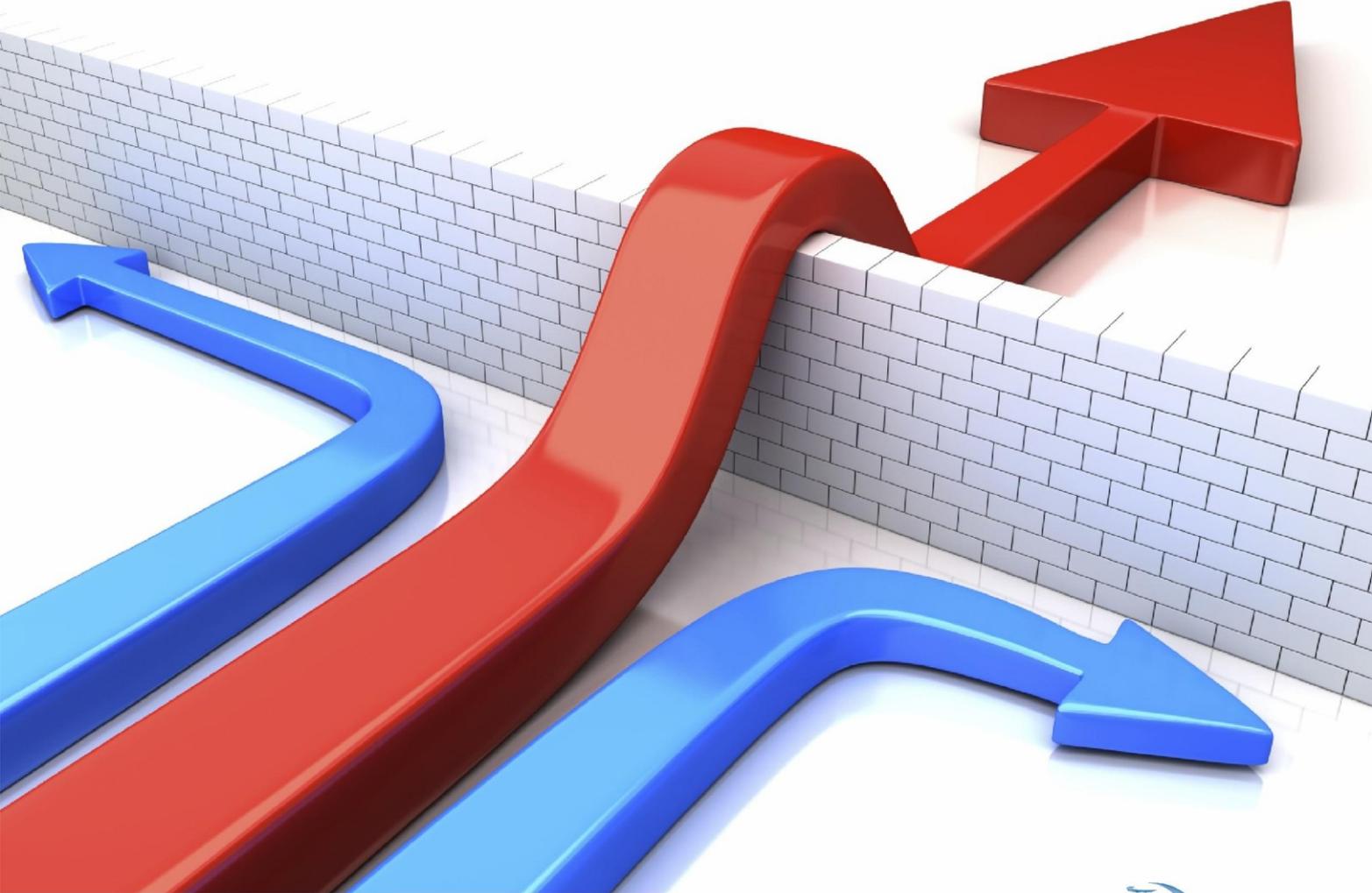


ULUSLARARASI INTERNATIONAL BALKAN FORUMU BALKAN FORUM

Çok Boyutlu Bölgesel Entegrasyon / İş Birliği Vizyon 2023

Multi Dimensions Regional Integration / Vision of Cooperation 2023

2-3 Mayıs May 2013 Edirne, MARGİ HOTEL



www.edirne.gov.tr



www.tasam.org

(STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT)

6. INTERNATIONAL BALKAN FORUM

“Multidimensional Regional Integration / Cooperation Vision 2023”

(01 - 03 May 2013, Margi Hotel Edirne)

As is known, many new states gained independence with the dispersion of Yugoslavia and all balances are shaken in Balkans. The resulting instability in this process has reached dangerous proportions in the regional context. In this region, there were wars and ethnic cleansing in 1990s, today's relative peace and stability was achieved at the end of international intervention. However, the ongoing tensions between the ethnic elements, suspicions between countries, continue to pose a threat to regional stability and security.

The EU aims to solve the insolvable problems of border through transitional borders with provide the mobility of people and goods through integration. Except Croatia which is expected join to the EU in July 2013, other six Balkan countries can not be ready for membership before 2020. Situation of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as adopted candidate countries for EU with Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and Albania as waiting countries for this status will be improve contingent on realizing reforms and approach to EU standards. EU membership perspective of Balkan countries continues to be a major target although EU's living serious challenges cause of weakening economy.

Economic interaction between the Balkan countries remains limited due to concerns about political structure and security. For this reason, countries of this region focus the EU accession programs for develop their own economies. However, if transport costs, at least, are considered, the economic projects, which neglect their next-door neighbor countries and not to target to keep strong their own domestic market, can not reach optimum efficiency in the long term and these will be condemned external dependence. Therefore, Balkan countries have to develop own domestic markets and regional economic relations at least for strengthen their hands in negotiations with the EU. In this context, strengthening these countries' institutionalization of economic integration/cooperation not alternatively but complementary/parallel with EU, will produce positive results for the region and the EU. Moreover, the growing economic relations provide great convenience to overcome the political problems and security concerns.

The unique cultural mosaic of the Balkans is causation of focusing global cultural elements' reflections to the region and consolidation of radicals' activities even the smallest tension in the region. Therefore, development of deeply historical cultural relations between the elements that make up the mosaic of Balkan, is so important not only for Balkans but also in terms of global confidence and stability. Increasing cultural and economical interaction, stressing the similarities rather than differences, creating the win-win situation between the actors, strengthening of confidence-building measures make a major contribute to become permanent of not only regional but also global stability and confidence.

In this context, the main factors and processes that affect cooperation and integration will be examined at 6th International Balkan Forum. At the beginning of the Forum, political, economic, social and environmental challenges which affect to integration and cooperation efforts of countries in the Region will be identified. These challenges also threaten stability and peace in the region. Therefore, understanding of these challenges is important cause of its affecting not only national and regional public policies, but also cooperation agreements between the institutions in the region. Intelligence, political will, co-operation and sharing of solutions in all sectors are important for combating there challenges.

In the Forum, social, political, economic and cultural sensitivities which are causing mistrust between countries of the Region will be discussed and analyzed with the participation of representatives of Balkan Communication Network member Think-Tanks, academics, diplomats, experts.

- 1) Development, Justice and Coherence of Policy**
- 2) Strategic Resources, Infrastructure, Economy**
- 3) Democracy, Civil Society and Human Security**
- 4) Managing Prejudices and National Pride In/Out the Region**

Main Theme

“Multi Dimensional Regional Integration / Cooperation Vision 2023”

Sub-Theme / Integration Parameters

Political (Development, Justice and Coherence of Policy)

Economic (Strategic Resources, Infrastructure, Economy)

Security (Democracy, Civil Society and Human Security)

Culture (Managing Prejudices and National Pride In/Out the Region)