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## **EU-Balkans: Zagreb Summit via videoconference tomorrow. “European perspective” of the region will be reaffirmed**

The EU-Western Balkans Summit, initially foreseen to happen in Zagreb to mark the Croatian presidency, will still take place tomorrow, but via videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event will be chaired by the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, together with the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. Also participating in the meeting will be the President of the European Parliament, David Sassoli, and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Josep Borell. The videoconference will bring together policy makers from the 27 member states and leaders from the Balkan countries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. Representatives of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European investment Bank, the World Bank, and the Regional Cooperation Council will also participate. The Summit, through the “Zagreb Declaration”, will be an opportunity to reaffirm the European perspective of the Western Balkans as well as the region’s ongoing commitment to political, economic and social change. In view of the current situation, discussion will also focus on the fight against coronavirus and its social and economic implications in the context of the EU-Western Balkans cooperation. For diplomatic reasons, national flags will not be allowed, particularly since Spain does not recognise Kosovo.

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