



Roundtable Discussion

Neighbours with benefits? North Macedonia & Greece after the Prespa Agreement

6 March 2019

11:00 – 12:30

FES EU Office, Rue du Taciturne 38

After the parliaments in Athens and Skopje ratified the Prespa agreement, finally the political struggle surrounding the agreement and the new name *Republic of North Macedonia* can come to an end. This major breakthrough was achieved despite the public opinion in both countries overwhelmingly against the agreement. But the dispute itself is not over. Prespa, in many ways, is just the start, not the end of solving the quarrel between the two nations.

With our discussion we want to shed light on how the name deal was reached, what dynamics played in favour of it and what can be learned from the agreement. Could it provide lessons learned that can be useful for other bilateral issues? We also want to discuss what is next: How can the two societies actually come closer? What can calm down populists in both countries and when can we expect a full implementation of the Prespa Agreement?

Program

From 11:00 **Roundtable Discussion** with

Ioannis Armakolas, Assistant Professor, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki

Ljupcho Petkovski, Executive Director at Eurothink, Skopje

Tonino Picula MEP, S&D Rapporteur for North Macedonia

Chaired by **Eva Ellereit**, Director FES North Macedonia,
and **Ulrich Storck**, Director FES Greece

12:30 End of event & Lunch Buffet