

Balkan Leadership Conference in Skopje, North Macedonia

Gani Rroshi
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The theme of the Skopje conference was "Western Balkans Integration into the European Union: Perspectives and Challenges." It was attended by the current president of North Macedonia and ten former heads of state and government from the six Western Balkans nations, plus Croatia and Slovakia.



On October 14 morning, the conference was opened by H.E. Stevo Pendarovski, the current president of North Macedonia, who attended the UPF Tirana Summit with True Mother. He gave opening remarks and attended the morning session on the theme "Perspectives on Western Balkans Integration into the EU",

which featured five former presidents: Crvenkoski (North Macedonia), Moisiu (Albania), Mesic (Croatia), Ivanic (Bosnia), Sejdiu (Kosovo) and two former prime ministers: Dzurinda (Slovakia) and Luksic (Montenegro).



The second session in the afternoon, on the theme "Perspectives on Peace and Reconciliation in the Western Balkans", included Hon. Talat Xhaferi, Chairman of the North Macedonian Parliament (UPF Peace Ambassador); Mrs. Slavjanka Petrovska, North Macedonian Minister of Defense; former presidents Vujanovic of Montenegro and Meidani of Albania; and former prime minister Cvetkovic of Serbia. Dr Fasslabend gave a powerful concluding speech.





The third and last session was dedicated to Youth Leaders, on the theme: "Policies and Projects to foster Regional Cooperation in Youth and EU Integration". It featured Hon. Bekteshi, a young MP lady from North Macedonia; Mr. Mojsovski, Director of the North Macedonian Agency for Youth and Sport; Mr. Hani, Secretary General of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO); Mr. Ruzin, a former Advisor to the Prime Minister of Macedonia; Ms. Jakimovska, Senior Event Officer of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies; and Ms. Kosturanova, North Macedonian Director of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. Dr Balcomb concluded the session - and the conference - with brilliant guidance on the need for spiritual values.

