



**Press release -  
Association Bourgogne-Balkans Express**

To create discussions amongst the youth engaged in civil society and questions concerning multiculturalism and EU integration, in a debate moderated by experts, is the aim of the 2012 edition of the colloquium organized by the association Bourgogne Balkan Express, which will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2012 in Dijon. The colloquium is made possible through the support of Mr. Pierre Mirel, the director of the Directorate-General for Enlargement of the European Commission, Sciences Po Paris, the City Hall of Dijon, the Regional Council and NATO.

At a time where Croatia is entering the EU and the acceptance of candidate status of Serbia, the association BBE, strengthened by the success from previous editions of the colloquium, is gathering experts and decision-makers on a high European and Balkan level, giving the opportunity to speak to young citizens and future political leaders of the European Union of tomorrow. This new aspect to the colloquium is added to the continuity of successful actions undertaken by BBE to further a dialogue on integration of the Western Balkans to the European Union and to propose political, economical and juridical solutions to the problems which the region is currently facing. The participants will debate on the issue of multiculturalism, criticized by the political leaders of the EU, but a critical point in the EU enlargement towards the Western Balkans.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of April at 19h in the premises of the Sciences Po Paris' campus in Dijon, the Norwegian director Jon Haukeland will have a special screening of his documentary "Reunion – ten years after the war", about mediated discussions between Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians concerning the current situation in Kosovo, at the time ten years after the war. The following day, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> of April, an opening conference by Mr. Pribétich, the deputy mayor of Dijon and Mr. László Surján, the vice-president of the European Parliament, will be held at Grand Dijon. Afterwards, debates will be organized surrounding two round tables, moderated by experts in the field of multiculturalism and EU integration. The colloquium will be concluded with a debate on the interaction between multiculturalism and economic development in the Western Balkans by Mr. Wenceslaz de Lobkowicz, from the DG Enlargement for the European Commission and Mr. Alan Paix, director of the program for investment in South-East Europe from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD, at the Regional Council of Burgundy. The final stage of the 2012 edition is an informal debate on the thematic of "Stereotypes" at 21h in the wine bar 'Les Caves à Jules". This informal debate aims to regroup the young Balkan- and French leaders participating in the colloquium and foster a debate.

All of the events will be open to the public, except for the round tables, which are necessary to sign up for. For further information, please contact the president of the association Bourgogne Balkan Express, Elena Chutrova ([Elena.chutrova@sciences-po.org](mailto:Elena.chutrova@sciences-po.org))

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