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BULGARIA AND NORTH MACEDONIA ASSUME JOINT PRESIDENCY OF BERLIN PROCESS

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By Agata Palickova

Bulgaria and North Macedonia $\ \square$ an EU member and a candidate country $\ \square$ have decided to jointly host the presidency of the so-called Berlin Process for the Western Balkans. The unusual decision was taken at a summit in the Polish city of Poznań last week.

The summit gathered EU leaders and their colleagues from the Western Balkans on 3-5 July. EU leaders confirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation with the region in key areas such as digital, transport and energy, economy, security and good neighbourly relations.

They also expressed support to North Macedonia and Albania for opening accession talks.

The Berlin Process is an initiative aimed at stepping up regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and aiding the integration of these countries into the European Union. It was launched in 2014 by the German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

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