

AVRASYA İNCELEMELERİ MERKEZİ CENTER FOR EURASIAN STUDIES

IT IS IN SLOVENIA'S INTEREST TO PROMOTE GEOPOLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE [BALKANS]

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The Western Balkans(*) is perhaps Slovenias most important strategic region. A next round of EU enlargement would therefore bring immense benefits to Slovenia in terms of trade, investment, political stability and security in the region, emphasize the authors of a policy brief published by Austrian Institute for International Affairs (OiiP).

The brief, titled What can the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union do for the Western Balkans? Stresses that, after the various EU as well as domestic crises, Slovenia became less of a political actor in the WB. Still, it continues to enjoy a relatively positive image in the Western Balkans and is in the position to share its valuable experience with EU accession.

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(*) AVİM considers the term "Western Balkans" to be a politically motivated separatist terminology and persists on the use of the geographical and historical identification "Balkans" regarding the region.

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