

Review

THE NEW APPROACH OF THE US ADMINISTRATION TOWARDS THE WESTERN BALKANS

Damir MARUSIC¹

Executive Editor of The American Interest, Washington DC. U.S.A.

email: damir.marusic@the-american-interest.com

ABSTRACT:

The paper analyzes the attitude of the US administration towards the Western Balkans. The United States has chosen the path of engagement with the Western Balkans under President Donald Trump. This strategy is obviously the right one, and is already paying dividends in Macedonia. But serious obstacles—a deeply troubled and divided European Union and an unpredictable and impulsive leader in the Oval Office—remain, and need to be taken into account. The amount that the United States can do under a Trump Administration may not be enough, given the region's deep-seated problems.

KEY WORDS:

Western Balkans; United States; Trump; NATO; EU.

¹ **Damir Marusic** is Executive Editor of The American Interest, a magazine based in Washington DC. Born in Croatia, and having grown up around the world in places such as North Korea and Cyprus, he has a keen interest in the limits and possibilities of state- and nation-building, which are the topics he most frequently writes about. His writing has appeared in The American Interest, Doublethink, and The Wall Street Journal. He has an M.A. from the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies in international economics and policy.

SAŽETAK:

U članku se analizira odnos američke administracije prema Zapadnom Balkanu. Dolaskom predsjednika Trampa na čelo američke administracije dolazi do novog angažovanja Sjedinjenih država na ovom prostoru. Ta strategija je očigledno ispravna o čemu svjedoče i postignuti rezultati u Makedoniji. Ipak, duboko podjeljena i uznemirena Evropska unija ali i činjenica da u Ovalnom kabinetu sjedi impulsivan i nepredvidiv predsjednik, predstavljaju ozbiljne izazove u realizaciji ove politike. Opseg onoga što Sjedinjene države mogu učiniti pod Trampovom administracijom možda neće bit dovoljan, uzimajući u obzir duboko ukorijenjene regionalne probleme.

KLJUČNE RIJEČI:

Zapadni Balkan; Sjedinjene Države; Tramp, NATO; Evropska Unija.