
MERZ PROPOSES NEW MODEL FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE BALKANS AND UKRAINE INTO THE EU

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German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has called on European Union leaders to consider the creation of a new complementary membership status for Ukraine and the countries of the **Western Balkans(*)**. The initiative aims to preserve the momentum of EU enlargement until these countries achieve full accession to the bloc.

I am convinced that we need new momentum for Ukraine, the Western Balkans, and Moldova alike, Merz wrote in a letter dated May 18, obtained by The Kyiv Independent.

For the Western Balkan countries, which have been striving toward European integration for years, Germany's call for innovative solutions for those candidate countries that have been preparing for a very long time may be seen as a much-needed boost to their own membership prospects.

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

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