Dear Madam / Dear Sir,

as Security Professional and a graduate of the Marshall Center's Seminar on Regional Security (SRS) (or other Security Studies related courses at the GCMC), it gives me great pleasure to invite you to attend the upcoming Regional Security Alumni Community of Interest (COI) Workshop entitled "The Challenge of EU Accession for Countries Aspiring to EU Membership and for the EU itself".

The workshop will be held from 23 to 25 July 2019 in Berlin, Germany and will be conducted in English.

This will be the second Regional Security Alumni Community of Interest (SRS COI) event. SRS COI Workshops are designed to support and engage the more than 250 Alumni of the Marshall Center's SRS Program, as well as security professionals from authorities within the respective region. Additionally, this COI event will provide an opportunity for active networking (and renewed friendships/relationships) for Marshall Center SRS Alumni, who are security sector leaders serving in conflict-management-related positions around the world.

Workshop participants will address and share their experiences and best practices in mitigating current and future security challenges and developing policy recommendations for a Way-Ahead.

Presentations and interactive discussions will include the Pros and Cons of an EU Membership, and the current public opinion towards EU membership within EU aspirant countries’ and EU member countries’ societies.

Furthermore, we would like to elaborate on the (dis-) balance between the European Council’s 2003 THESSALONIKI CONCLUSIONS, and EU’s current political willingness to accept accession of West Balkan and/or neighborhood countries.

Finally, fresh, out of the box suggestions for how to overcome these potential deadlocks should be developed, thus identifying a way ahead for the countries with EU aspirations and the EU as such.

You, as a participant, should be prepared to present your view on the current situation, on resulting challenges and consequences. We are looking forward to your active contributions to the discussion and working panels.
The event will begin on Tuesday, 23 July 2019 at 12:00 hrs with a common welcome lunch and is expected to conclude on Thursday, 25 July, no later than 15:00 hrs.

The George C. Marshall Center will arrange and fund your air travel, hotel accommodation, meals, and transportation to/from Berlin Tegel Airport and the venue. Travel days for planning purposes are 23 July for arrival and 25 July for departure.

Thank you for considering being part of this important event and we look forward to your participation. For further questions please do not hesitate to contact our Event Coordinator, Ms Irina Gleason, at Tel. +49 (0)8821-750-2637, e-mail: Irina.K.Gleason@marshallcenter.org or our Alumni Specialist, Captain Christian Eder, Tel. +49-(0)8821-750-2814, email: christian.eder@marshallcenter.org.

Sincerely,

Dipl-Ing

Jörg Kunze

Colonel (GS) DEU Air Force
Director, Seminar on Regional Security
George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany