

Luca Gori, Counselor, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: The Balkans and the EU

## **Abstract**

The strategy of the European Union towards the Western Balkans in the period that runs from 1996 to 2008. When and how the European perspective for the Western Balkans was born. Political strategies, resources and means through which this perspective is being realized. The several challenges, starting with Kosovo, that the EU will have to face and win to make the region stable and fully integrated in its bosom.