The May 2004 accession of ten central and eastern European countries pushed the EU’s borders towards the east while the recent inclusion of Bulgaria and Romania moved the border up to the Black Sea. The EU is now sharing its borders with countries which have become key strategic partners because of their rich resources. However, some still face security and other challenges and the EU cannot afford to be indifferent to the arc of instability that runs from Belarus to North Africa, passing through Ukraine, Moldova, the Western Balkans, the Caucasus and the Middle East.

After the European Neighbourhood Policy’s first stage of implementation, a consensus was reached amongst European leaders that the policy needed to be upgraded.

This goes to the heart of the debate over the credibility of the ENP which will largely depend on whether the EU succeeds in moving from theory to practice with concrete measures which would more clearly outline its role in the Neighbourhood and among its citizens.

Further the previous successful series, the European Journalism Centre is organising another round of briefings to provide journalists with more information about the EU’s new neighbours. Key issues such as economic integration, internal security, ethnic minorities and human rights, regional development and good governance will be addressed while highlighting the current negotiations and achievements under the ENP.
The briefing programme includes a 2-day stage in Brussels, followed by intensive programming in one of the eight selected countries. Meetings with local authorities, diplomats, civil society organisations and independent experts and discussions with correspondents will enrich the professional perspective of participants.

The briefings are open to professional working journalists from the EU 27 Member States (printed press, TV, radio, news agencies and on-line press) who regularly cover foreign and European affairs. Travel and accommodation are covered by the organisers.

Journalists can present their application by registering on-line at: www.ejcseminars.eu

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