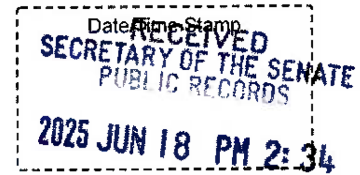


RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**



Certification: In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:

Private Sponsor(s):

The Atlantic Council of the United States ("the Atlantic Council")

Travel Dates:

May 24 to June 1, 2025

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

N/A

Relationship to Traveler:

N/A

Total Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$3,570.66	\$776.86	\$487.95	\$9.74 - Tirana bunker tour & briefing

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- The final **Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

James Rice

Date

Printed Name of Traveler

Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

6-16-2025

Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Transportation	\$3,570.66	By the time of approval and booking of flights and ground transportation, fares had increased significantly.
Lodging	\$776.86	We were able to negotiate better group rates at several hotels than originally quoted.
Meals	\$487.95	We were able to negotiate group discount rates at several restaurants used for roundtables.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation:

The final itinerary included additional meetings secured at short notice, as is customary in the region. There were also some last-minute substitutions and changes in timing or location.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Explanation:

ITINERARY

Balkans Forward Congressional Fellowship Study Tour

May 24 – 31, 2025

FINAL AGENDA

Saturday, May 24

5:25 p.m. – 8:15 a.m. +1 **Delegation flew Washington IAD – Vienna VIE on Austrian Airlines OS 94**

Sunday, May 25

12:50 p.m. – 1:55 p.m. **Delegation flew to Vienna VIE – Sarajevo SJJ on Austrian Airlines OS 757**

2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Transfer to Sarajevo city center and check in to hotel**
Location: Courtyard Sarajevo
Address: Skenderija 1, Sarajevo 71000

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Atlantic Council Sarajevo briefing over light lunch**
Location: Cevabdzinica Zelja
Address: Kundurdžiluk 19, Sarajevo 71000

5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Private briefing with Marko Radovanović, Head of Office of the Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council**
Location: Courtyard Sarajevo
Address: Skenderija 1, Sarajevo 71000

6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. **Private briefing with representatives from the Delegation of the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina**
Location: Courtyard Sarajevo
Address: Skenderija 1, Sarajevo 71000

External meeting participants:

Elisabet Tomasinec, *Head of Political Section*, Delegation of the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Aurelie Valtat, *Head of European Integration, Political Section*, Delegation of the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Welcome working dinner discussion with local experts**
Location: Restaurant BarSa
Address: Sime Milutinovića 12, Sarajevo 71000

External participants:

Damir Kapidžić, *Member*, Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG)
Amila Karacić, *Political Advisor*, Royal Danish Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Nadezda Kokotović, *Business Manager*, SGS Group

Monday, May 26

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Private meeting over breakfast with Ms. Aida Hodžić, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina <u>Location:</u> Courtyard Sarajevo <u>Address:</u> Skenderija 1, Sarajevo 71000
9:05 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Hotel check-out and transfer to Camp Butmir
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Private meeting with Major General Florin-Marian Barbu, Commander of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina <u>Location:</u> Camp Butmir <u>Address:</u> Kemala Kapetanovića 12, Butmir 71000
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Transfer from Camp Butmir to Sarajevo
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Private meeting with Louis Crishock, Principal Deputy High Representative and Supervisor for Brcko District, Office of the High Representative <u>Location:</u> Office of the High Representative <u>Address:</u> Emerika Bluma 1, Sarajevo 71000
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Transfer to airport and flight check-in
3:10 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Delegation flew Sarajevo SJJ to Belgrade BEG on Air Serbia flight JU 653
4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Transferr to Nordeus office <u>Location:</u> Nordeus office <u>Address:</u> Bulevar Milutina Milankovića 11, Belgrade 11070
5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Private meeting with Branko Milutinovic, Chief Executive Officer, Nordeus <u>Location:</u> Nordeus office <u>Address:</u> Bulevar Milutina Milankovića 11, Belgrade 11070
6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Transfer to Belgrade city center and hotel check-in <u>Location:</u> Nordeus office <u>Address:</u> Bulevar Milutina Milankovića 11, Belgrade 11070

Monday, May 26 – continued

- 6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.** **Private meeting with Ela Ruci, Balkan Business Development Manager, Bechtel**
Location: Hilton Belgrade Rooftop Bar
Address: Kralja Milana 35, Belgrade 11000
- 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** **Belgrade briefing dinner with local experts**
Location: Klub Knjizevnika
Address: Francuska 7, Belgrade 11000
- External participants:
Raša Nedeljković, *Program Director*, Center for Research, Transparency, and Accountability (CRTA)
Maja Stojanović, *Executive Director*, Civic Initiatives
Professor Ivanka Popović, *Founder*, ProGlas Movement

Tuesday, May 27

- Morning** **Independent breakfast**
- 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.** **Private meeting with Sonja Vlahović, State Secretary, and Jovana Joksimović, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation and European Integration, Ministry of Mining and Energy of the Republic of Serbia**
Location: Transnafta Building
Address: Hercegovačka 21, Belgrade 11000
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** **Private meeting with Tanja Jović, Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of the Republic of Serbia**
Location: Presidency Office
Address: No. 1, Andrićev venac Str., Belgrade 11000
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** **Private meeting with Ana Brnabić, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia**
Location: House of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
Address: Trg Nikole Pašića 13, Belgrade 11000
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.** **Private meeting with Miroslav Gacević, Assistant Minister of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia**
Location: Ministry of European Integration
Address: Nemanjina 34, Belgrade 11000

Tuesday, May 27 – continued

- 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** **Private working lunch with local academics**
Location: Madera
Address: Bulevar kralja Aleksandra 43, Belgrade 11000

External participants:
Aleksandra Krstić, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade
Milan Krstić, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade
Miodrag Milosavljević, Deputy Director, Open Society Foundations – Western Balkans
Dusan Spasojević, Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** **Private meeting with Plamena Halacheva, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia**
Location: EU Delegation in Serbia
Address: Vladimira Popovica 40, 5th Floor, Belgrade 190776
- 4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.** **Private meeting Pavle Grbović MP, President of the Movement of Free Citizens and Member of the National Assembly of Serbia**
Location: Hilton Belgrade Rooftop
Address: Kralja Milana 35, Belgrade 11000
- 5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.** **Private meeting with Stefan Lazarevic, President, American Chamber of Commerce in Serbia**
Location: Hilton Belgrade Rooftop
Address: Kralja Milana 35, Belgrade 11000
- 7:15 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.** **Belgrade debrief over dinner with Atlantic Council Team**
Location: Komunale
Address: Beton Hala, Karađorđeva 2-4, Belgrade 11000

Wednesday, May 28

- 5:00 a.m. – 5:30 a.m.** **Hotel checkout and transfer to airport**
- 7:00 a.m. – 8:10 a.m.** **Delegation flew Belgrade BEG to Vienna VIE on Austrian flight OS 740**
- 9:50 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.** **Delegation flew from Vienna VIE to Tirana TIA on Austrian flight OS 845**

Wednesday, May 28 – continued

- 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** **Transfer to Tirana city center and check-in to Tirana hotel**
Location: Tirana Marriott
Address: Sheshi Italia, Tirana 1001
- 2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** **Private briefing with Grant Van Cleve, President, American Chamber of Commerce in Albania**
Location: Tirana Marriott
Address: Sheshi Italia, Tirana 1001
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** **Private meeting with Altin Dumani, Head and Chief Special Prosecutor, Special Structure against Corruption and Organized Crime (SPAK)**
Location: SPAK Headquarters
Address: Jordan Misja Nr.1, Tirana 1001
- 5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** **Guided tour and briefing of communist-era nuclear bunker in Albania**
Location: Bunk'Art 2
Address: Rruga Abdi Toptani, Tirana, 1001
- 7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.** **Tirana program briefing dinner with Ilva Tare**
Location: Pireu
Address: Rruga Qemal Guranjaku 12, Tirana 1000

Thursday, May 29

- 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.** **Private meeting with Jorida Tabaku MP, Deputy Chair of DP and Chair of the European Affairs Committee in the Albanian Parliament**
Location: Tirana Marriott
Address: Sheshi Italia, Tirana 1001
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** **Private meeting with H.E. Igli Hasani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania**
Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Address: Bulevardi Gjergj Fishta Nr 6, Tirana 1001
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.** **Private meeting with Samir Mane, President, Balkan Finance Investment Group (BALFIN)**
Location: ABA Business Center, 4th Floor
Address: Rruga Papa Gjon Pali II, Tirana 1001

Thursday, May 29 – continued

- 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.** **Tirana working lunch with H.E. Anila Denaj, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Albania**
Location: Lift
Address: St 1010, ABA Business Center, 11th Floor, Rruga Papa Gjon Pali II, Tirana 1001
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** **Private meeting with Martin Mata and Aleksander Sarapuli, Co-Chief Executive Officers, Albanian American Development Fund (AADF)**
Location: AADF offices
Address: Ibrahim Rugova Street, Building #42, Tirana 1001
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** **Private meeting with H.E. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania**
Location: Prime Minister's office
Address: Bulevardi Dëshmorët e Kombit 7, Tirana 1010
- 7:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.** **Working dinner with local experts**
Location: Tribe
Address: Rr. Murat Toptani, Pedonale Tirana 1001
- External participants:
Dr. Odeta Barbullushi, *Resident Professor*, College of Europe (Tirana Branch)
Lutfi Dervishi, *Trainer*, Albania Media Institute
Andi Dobrush, *Director*, OSF Western Balkans
Agon Maliqi, *Nonresident Senior Fellow*, Europe Center, Atlantic Council

Friday, May 30

- 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** **Hotel check-out and transfer from Tirana to Pristina by bus**
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.** **Check-in to Pristina Hotel**
Location: Hotel Sirius
Address: Agim Ramadani, Pristina 10000
- 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.** **Private meeting with H.E. Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo**
Location: Prime Minister's Office
Address: Mother Teresa Square, Pristina 10000

Friday, May 30 – continued**12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.****Working lunch with Civil Society Leaders**Location: TiffanyAddress: Fehmi Agani, Rr. Enver Zymberi, nr.55, Pristina 10000External participants:**Dr. Ramadan Ilazi**, *Head of Research*, Kosovar Centre for Security Studies**Lura Limani**, *Team Leader, EU Integration and Regional Cooperation Program*, OSF Western Balkans**Jovana Radosavljevic**, *Executive Director*, New Social Initiative**Visar Ymeri**, *Executive Director*, Musine Kokalari Institute for Social Policy**2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.****Private meeting with H.E. Vjosa Osmani, President of the Republic of Kosovo**Location: Office of the President (Parliament Building, Entrance from Ibrahim Rugova Sq.)Address: Parliament Building, Ibrahim Rugova Sq., Pristina 10000**4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.****Private meeting with Major General Enrico Barduani, Commander, Kosovo Force (KFOR)**Location: KFOR HQ PristinaAddress: Camp Film City, Pristina 10000**6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.****Private meeting with Arian Zeka, Executive Director, Staff, and Members, American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo**Location: Soma Book StationAddress: 4/A, Fazli Grajqevci, Tirana 10000**8:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.****Debrief and farewell dinner with Atlantic Council experts**Location: SaltAddress: Rruga, nr 2 Fehmi Agani, Pristina**Saturday, May 31****4:00 a.m. – 4:30 a.m.****Hotel checkout and transfer to airport****6:05 a.m. – 7:40 a.m.****Delegation flies Pristina PRN to Vienna VIE on Austrian Airlines OS 770****10:50 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.****Delegation flies Vienna VIE to Washington IAD on Austrian Airlines OS 93**

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved.

Date/Time Stamp

Name of Traveler:

James Rice

Employing Office/Committee:

Senator Grassley

Private Sponsor(s):

Atlantic Council of the United States

Destination(s):

Bosnia, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo

Travel Dates:

May 24, 2025 - May 31, 2025

NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

Legislative duties include handling foreign affairs for the Senator

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

☐

(signify "yes" by checking box)

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

4/22/25

Date

James Rice
Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms,
Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

Chuck Grassley

(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

James Rice

(Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐

(signify "yes" by checking box)

04/24/25
Date

Chuck Grassley
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

REQUEST FOR TRIP EXTENSION

Pursuant to the *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* § III.E.3:

When a traveler extends their trip by arriving earlier or staying later than scheduled by the sponsor, this is a trip extension. Prior written Committee approval is required for all trip extensions, regardless of whether the traveler is extending for an official or personal purpose. In the case of a Senate employee, the individual's supervising Senator or officer must also approve the extension.

Under no circumstance may a trip sponsor pay expenses attributable to a trip extension. At a minimum, the Senate traveler is responsible for the cost of any increase in expenses incurred because of a personal extension, and all meal and lodging expenses associated with the extension day(s). For officially-related extensions, consistent with Senate Rule 38, the Senate office must pay all additional expenses.

The Committee will determine the expenses the Senate traveler or Senate office will be required to pay based on a review of the totality of the circumstances of the trip, including the length and purpose of the extension, as follows:

- If an extension is equal to or less than the length of the trip, the traveler may accept transportation to and from the trip location. Any additional expenses incurred as a result of the extension must be paid by the traveler (for personal extensions) or the Senate office (for official extensions).
- If an extension is greater than the length of the trip and on one side of the trip, the Senate traveler may only accept transportation from the sponsor on the side of the trip that is continuing as scheduled. The Senate traveler (for personal extensions) or the Senate office (for official extensions) must pay all transportation costs on the side of the trip with the extension. As with all extensions, the Senate traveler must also pay any additional expenses incurred as a result of the extension.
- If an extension is greater than the length of the trip and on both sides of the trip, or significantly greater than the length of the trip (e.g., more than double) and on one side of the trip, the Senate traveler or Senate office must pay all transportation costs to and from the trip location, as well as any additional expenses incurred as a result of the extension. In determining whether to approve an extension, the Committee will also consider whether special circumstances support extending the trip, such as restrictions on travel due to religious observances or for medical reasons.

Atlantic Council

Bosnia, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo

Trip Sponsor

Trip location

May 24, 2025

Same

Original departure date/time

Revised departure date/time

May 31, 2025

June 1, 2025

Original return date/time

Revised return date/time

James Rice

James Rice

04/24/25

Printed name of traveler

Signature

Date

Chuck Grassley

Chuck Grassley

04/24/25

Printed name of supervising Senator/officer

Signature

Date



James Rice
Legislative Director
Office of Senator Chuck Grassley

April 14, 2025

Dear James,

On behalf of the Atlantic Council, it is my pleasure to invite you to join a staff delegation to Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo, and Albania led by the Council's Europe Center. The trip will take place from **May 24 to May 31, 2025**.

The Atlantic Council's Europe Center is home to the Balkans Forward Initiative, which is a unique, coordinated effort to foster a democratic, secure, and prosperous Western Balkans firmly integrated into the transatlantic community. Our work seeks to reinvigorate US engagement in the region, promote more effective US-European cooperation on issues impacting the Western Balkans, foster dialogue among key actors across the region, and cultivate a new generation of decision-makers and experts.

This staff delegation will take congressional staffers to the Western Balkans where they will meet with senior government officials, civil society, and private sector leaders. Meetings will focus on US policy, regional security, economic development, crime and corruption, judicial reform, and law enforcement issues in the region. The mission of this trip is to build greater awareness and understanding among congressional policymakers of the challenges and opportunities facing the Western Balkans and support informed US policy toward the region.

We hope that you can join this timely trip. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me, or my colleague Lisa Homel (lhommel@atlanticcouncil.org).

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jörn Fleck", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jörn Fleck
Senior Director, Europe Center
Atlantic Council

US Senate

Committee on Ethics

Atlantic Council of the US, Inc.

Europe Center trip to the Western Balkans

May 24 – 31, 2025

Primary Trip Sponsor Form supplemental documentation

Senate employees invited:

1. **Carpenter, Molly**

- a. *Legislative Director*, Office of Sen. Mike Crapo (ID)
- b. Reason for inviting: The Western Balkans is a region of strategic importance to the United States and Europe which are both committed to keeping the region aligned on a Euro-Atlantic trajectory. These individual countries and the Western Balkans region as a whole are relevant to Ms. Carpenter's official professional portfolio in the Senate given their Senator's role on the Senate Finance Committee.

2. **English, Amy**

- a. *Professional Staff Member*, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- b. Reason for inviting: The Western Balkans is a region of strategic importance to the United States and Europe which are both committed to keeping the region aligned on a Euro-Atlantic trajectory. These individual countries and the Western Balkans region as a whole are relevant to Ms. English's official professional portfolio in the Senate given her role as a professional staff member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

3. **Rice, James**

- a. *Legislative Director*, Office of Sen. Chuck Grassley (IA)
- b. Reason for inviting: The Western Balkans is a region of strategic importance to the United States and Europe which are both committed to keeping the region aligned on a Euro-Atlantic trajectory. These individual countries and the Western Balkans region as a whole are relevant to Mr. Rice's official professional portfolio in the Senate given his Senator's role on the Senate Finance Committee and the Congressional Caucus on Bosnia.

4. **Thorpe, Amanda**

- a. *National Security Advisor*, Office of Sen. Peter Welch (VT)
- b. Reason for inviting: The Western Balkans is a region of strategic importance to the United States and Europe which are both committed to keeping the region aligned on a Euro-Atlantic trajectory. These individual countries and the Western Balkans region as a whole are relevant to Ms. Thorpe's official professional portfolio in the Senate given her Senator's

position on the Senate Committee on Finance and the ties between her Senator's state, Vermont, with North Macedonia.

5. Velez, Roberto

- a. *Legislative Assistant*, Office of Sen. Tim Kaine (VA)
- b. Reason for inviting: The Western Balkans is a region of strategic importance to the United States and Europe which are both committed to keeping the region aligned on a Euro-Atlantic trajectory. These individual countries and the Western Balkans region as a whole are relevant to Mr. Velez's official professional portfolio in the Senate given his Senator's position on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

6. Vogt, Camilla

- a. *National Security Advisor*, Office of Sen. John Hickenlooper (CO)
- b. Reason for inviting: The Western Balkans is a region of strategic importance to the United States and Europe which are both committed to keeping the region aligned on a Euro-Atlantic trajectory. These individual countries and the Western Balkans region as a whole are relevant to Ms. Vogt's official professional portfolio in the Senate given her role as National Security Advisor for her Senator who has a position on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Trip Name: Atlantic Council Europe Center Congressional Fellows trip

Organization Information

Organization Name:

Atlantic Council

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, §501(c)(3) Organization Type:

☐ Private Foundation ☒ Public Charity

Address:

1400 L St NW, 11th Floor

City, State, Zip:

Washington, DC 20005

Phone Number:

(202) 778-4952

Organization URL:

<https://atlanticcouncil.org/>

History of Congressional Travel

Describe your organization's history of sponsoring congressional travel.

The Atlantic Council has previously sponsored several congressional trips. The Atlantic Council's Europe Center specifically sponsored a similar congressional trip to the Western Balkans in 2019.

Educational Activities

Describe the educational activities performed by your organization other than sponsoring congressional travel.

The Atlantic Council regularly hosts events for attendance by the general public and publishes reports that are freely available to the public. The Atlantic Council's Europe Center hosts events for the general public and publishes reports for the general public specifically on the Europe region, including a separate workstream focused entirely on the Western Balkans and its Euro-Atlantic path towards integration into NATO and the EU.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status (Select one):

- ☒ I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.
- ☐ I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist but does retain or employ one or more federally registered lobbyists.

Foreign Agent Registration Status (Select one):

- ☒ I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and does not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.
- ☐ I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal but does retain or employ one or more agents of a foreign principal.

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status (Must select all):

- ☒ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ☒ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- ☒ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

The Atlantic Council's Europe Center planned a trip for staffers based on the Center's focus on the Western Balkans. The locations of Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, and Bosnia-Herzegovina were picked to educate staffers on the different dynamics across a large swath of the Western Balkans region. Visiting these locations will provide opportunities to understand each country's relationship with the United States and the priorities and dynamics of each country within the region, in the transatlantic relationship, and vis-à-vis their efforts to join the European Union.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

The Atlantic Council promotes leadership and engagement in international affairs. The Atlantic Council's Europe Center aims to enhance transatlantic cooperation and generate awareness about Europe, including the Western Balkans. This staff delegation will take congressional staffers to the Western Balkans where they will meet with senior government officials, civil society, and private sector leaders. Meetings will focus on US policy, regional security, economic development, crime and corruption, judicial reform, and law enforcement issues in the region. The mission of this trip is to build greater awareness and understanding among congressional policymakers of the challenges and opportunities facing the Western Balkans and support informed US policy toward the region.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If No, describe your organization's role in planning the trip.

If there are multiple sponsors, each sponsor must submit Organization Information (Page 1 of the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form) and a Signature Page Form.

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

If you have a Grantmaking Organization, you must attach a Grantmaking Organization Certification Form.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

With or Without Regard to Congressional Participation (Select one):

- ☐ The trip is arranged or organized without regard to congressional participation.
- ☒ The trip is arranged or organized with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing (Must select all):

- ☒ The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- ☒ No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations (Select one):

- ☒ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations (Select one):

- ☐ No sponsor retains or employs a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principle, the trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Required if selecting the third option in either column - Please explain why the second overnight stay is practically required and necessary to accomplish the purpose of the trip.

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol (Must select all):

- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees list

- ☒ A list of all Senate invitees is attached to this form (required).
- ☒ Members and staff from the House of Representatives will also receive invitations.

Travel Details (Submit additional pages as needed)

Trip Start Date/Time:
5/24/25



Trip End Date/Time:
5/31/25

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Transportation (Member/Officer/Employee: \$¹⁸⁵⁰ Accompanying Family Member: \$_____)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Flights	Economy	1600/pp
Private Bus	Coach	250/pp

Details (optional)

A private coach bus is necessary in the Western Balkans for group transport including airport transfers and transfers to meetings.

Lodging (Member/Officer/Employee: \$⁸²⁴ Accompanying Family Member: \$_____)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
5/25/25	5/26/25	Courtyard Sarajevo	Sarajevo		Bosnia
Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.		
1	\$114	Yes			
Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
5/26/25	5/28/25	Moxy Belgrade	Belgrade		Serbia
Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.		
2	\$109	No			
Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
5/28/25	5/30/25	Arte Boutique Hotel	Tirana		Albania
Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.		
2	196	No	Final hotel listed below in "additional information"		

Meals (Member/Officer/Employee: \$ 545 Accompanying Family Member: \$)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem (Y/N)
5/25/25	0	30	70	0	100	Sarajevo		Bosnia	N
5/26/25	0	30	60	0	90	Sarajevo and Belgrade		Bosnia and Serbia	N
5/27/25	0	25	65	0	90	Belgrade		Serbia	N
5/28/25	0	25	75	0	100	Belgrade and Tirana		Serbia and Albania	N
5/29/25	0	35	75	0	110	Tirana		Albania	N
5/30/25	0	20	35	0	55	Tirana and Pristina		Albania and Kosovo	N
5/31/25	0	0	0	0	0	Pristina		Kosovo	N

If costs exceed the federal per diem, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.

The per diem rate varies between countries but the daily budgeted spend is less than the average per diem each day.

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses

(Member/Officer/Employee: \$ 0 Accompanying Family Member: \$)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
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Additional Details (optional)

Final hotel:

May 30-31, Hotel Sirius, Pristina, Kosovo. 1 night, \$95/night, Does not exceed the per diem rate.

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: Atlantic Council Europe Center Congressional Fellows Trip
Travel Date(s): May 24-31, 2025
Travel Destination(s): Sarajevo, Bosnia; Belgrade, Serbia; Pristina, Kosovo; Tirana Albania
Sponsor: Atlantic Council

Julie Varghese

(printed name of sponsor representative)

Chief Operating Officer

(title)

DocuSigned by:

97BA0A8C38194E8

(signature of sponsor representative)

4/22/2025

(date)

(INDICATIVE) ITINERARY

Balkans Forward Congressional Fellowship Study Tour

May 24 – 31, 2025

(INDICATIVE) ITINERARY**Saturday, May 24 – Departure**

6:10 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. +1 Delegation flies Washington IAD – Frankfurt FRA on Lufthansa airlines LH 419

Sunday, May 25 – Sarajevo

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Delegation flies Frankfurt FRA – Sarajevo SJJ on Lufthansa airlines LH 1544

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 pm. Transfer to Sarajevo city center and check in to hotel
Location: Courtyard Sarajevo
Address: Skenderija 1, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia & Herzegovina

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Trip itinerary briefing lunch with Atlantic Council team
Location: Barba – Mediterranean Restaurant
Address: Dr. Fetaha Bećirbegovića 37A, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Private briefings (TBC)

- Sarajevo Briefing with local experts
- Daniel Koski, *Chargés d'affaires a.i.*, US Embassy Sarajevo

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Welcome dinner and trip orientation
Location: Dveri
Address: Prote Bakovića 12, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Monday, May 26 – Sarajevo, Belgrade

8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Private meetings (TBC)

- Major General Florin-Marian Barbu, *Commander of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- H.E. Luigi Soreca, *Ambassador of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- H.E. Christian Schmidt, *High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- H.E. Elmedin Konaković, *Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Hotel check-out and transfer to lunch
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Working lunch with Damir Kapidzic, <i>Member</i> , Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (TBC)
1:00 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	Transfer to airport
3:10 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Delegation flies Sarajevo SJJ to Belgrade BEG on Air Serbia flight JU 653
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Transfer to Belgrade city center and check-in to Belgrade hotel <u>Location:</u> Moxy Belgrade <u>Address:</u> Njegoševa 2, Beograd 11000, Serbia
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Belgrade briefing dinner with think tank experts <u>Location:</u> Iva New Balkan Cuisine <u>Address:</u> Kneginje Ljubice 11, Beograd 11000, Serbia

Tuesday, May 27 – Belgrade

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Private meetings (TBC) - H.E. Aleksandar Vučić, <i>President of the Republic of Serbia</i> - H.E. Marko Đurić, <i>Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia</i> - H.E. Nemanja Starović, <i>Minister of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia</i>
12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch with Prof. Tanja Mišćević, <i>Former Chief Negotiator for the accession of Serbia to the EU</i> TBC
2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Private meetings (TBC) - Opposition Members of Parliament: Dr. Jelena Jerinić MP (ZLF), Mr. Dobrica Veselinović MP (ZLF), Dr. Anna Oreg (PSG) MP - Stefan Lazarević, <i>President</i>, AmCham Board of Governors - H.E. Emanuele Giaufret, <i>Ambassador of the European Union to Serbia</i> - Alexander Titolo, <i>Chargés d'affaires a.i.</i>, US Embassy Belgrade
7:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Dinner with Serbian Civil Society Representatives TBC <u>Location:</u> Klub Književnika <u>Address:</u> Francuska 7, Beograd 11000, Serbia

Wednesday, May 28 – Belgrade, Tirana

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Private meetings (TBC)
- Ivanka Popovic, *Founder*, ProGlas movement
 - Representatives of Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA)
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Transfer to airport and lunch to-go
- 1:20 p.m. – 2:35 p.m. Delegation flies Belgrade BEG to Tirana TIA on Air Serbia flight JU 162
- 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Transfer to Tirana city center and check-in to Tirana hotel
Location: Arte Boutique Hotel
Address: Rruga Ibrahim Rugova 32, Tiranë, Albania
- 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Private meetings (TBC)
- Nancy Van Horn, *Deputy Chief of Mission*, US Embassy Tirana
 - Representatives of the Office of the Mayor of Tirana
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Cultural activity – Tour of Pyramid of Tirana (Pjeter Arbërori International Center of Culture and Enver Hoxha Museum)
- 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Tirana briefing dinner with think tank experts
Location: Pireu
Address: Rruga Qemal Guranjaku 12, Tiranë 1000, Albania

Thursday, May 29 – Tirana

- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Private meetings (TBC)
- H.E. Edi Rama, *Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania*
 - H.E. Igli Hasani, *Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania*
 - H.E. Silvio Gonzato, *Ambassador of the European Union to Albania*
- 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Briefing over lunch with Ms. Françeska Korançe, *EIT Community Officer*, Albania

2:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Private meetings (TBC)

- **Martin Mata and Aleksander Sarapuli**, *Co-Chief Executive Officers*, Albanian American Development Fund
- **Samir Mane**, *President*, BALFIN Group
- **Altin Dumani**, *Head*, Albanian Special Anti-corruption Body (SPAK)

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Working dinner with Grant Van Cleve, *President*, American Chamber of Commerce in AlbaniaLocation: TribeAddress: Rr. Murat Toptani, Pedonale Tirana AL, 1001, Albania**Friday, May 30 – Pristina**

6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Drive Tirana – Pristina

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Check-in to Pristina HotelLocation: Hotel SiriusAddress: Agim Ramadani, Prishtina 10000

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Briefing over lunch with Kosovo Serb and Kosovo Albanian Civil Society Representatives (TBC)

- **Agon Maliqi**, *Nonresident Senior Fellow*, Europe Center, Atlantic Council
- **Ramadan Ilazi**, *Head of Research*, Kosovar Centre for Security Studies
- **Jovana Radosavljevic**, *Executive Director*, New Social Initiative
- **Milica Andric Rakic**, *Project Manager*, New Social Initiative

1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Private meetings (TBC)

- **H.E. Vjosa Osmani**, *President of the Republic of Kosovo*
- **H.E. Albin Kurti**, *Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo*
- **Lumir Abdixhiku**, *Leader*, Democratic League
- **Përparim Rama**, *Mayor of the City of Pristina*
- **Major General Enrico Barduani**, *Commander of Kosovo Force (KFOR)*

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Farewell dinner and debriefLocation: SALT PrishtinaAddress: Rruga, nr 2 Fehmi Agani, Prishtina 10000**Saturday, May 31**

6:05 a.m. – 7:40 a.m.

Delegation flies Pristina PRN to Vienna VIE on Austrian airlines OS 770

10:50 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

Delegation flies Vienna VIE to Washington IAD on Austrian airlines OS 93