

Speech by Professor Vladimir N. Cvetkovic, PhD

Belgrade, 19th april 2019 - BELT AND ROAD: SERBIA AND INITIATIVE 16+1

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Ministers,

your Excellencies,

distinguished colleagues,

dear guests,

I have the honor and pleasure to greet you on behalf of the Faculty of Security Studies which, with the help of friends from the Chinese academic community, has been organizing a conference dedicated to the 16+1 Initiative for the third consecutive year. This initiative, which has a new member since last week - Greece, now it is already "17+1", represents the business and political mechanism of cooperation of the countries of South-Eastern Europe, which are participating in the realization of the biggest economic project in the XXI century, now well known to everyone called Belt and Road. The previous conferences were devoted to the security and political aspects of the realization of the megaproject Belt and Road from the perspective of the countries of the Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe. This year we focus more on the results of this project, which were realized in Serbia. Of course, in order to be able to see the results more clearly and deeply, it is necessary to put them in a broader geopolitical and economic context, which will say that it is necessary to observe the experiences that the countries of our near and wider environment have in the realization of the Belt and Road. That's why this year with us researchers, academics, businessmen and public servants not only from China and Serbia, but also from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Croatia, Estonia, Russia and other countries. I would like to thank all the participants, participants and guests, who have found the interest and time to participate in the work of our conference and I wish everyone a nice and pleasant stay in our capital.

Thank you.