

EU to reassert influence over Balkans

EU leaders, worried about Chinese and Russian influence in the region, are focusing attention on six Balkan hopefuls aspiring to join the bloc



EU has provided **€3.3bn** to help combat **Covid-19** crisis and says this outweighs medical supplies sent to Serbia and Bosnia by Beijing and Moscow in early phase of epidemic

*European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** has warned that if EU does not do more, "others will"*



EU members

Picture: Getty Images



MONTENEGRO

Population* **0.62 million**
GDP* **\$5.50 billion**



SERBIA

Population **6.98 million**
GDP **\$50.59 billion**



Montenegro and Serbia are already in negotiations to join EU, with earliest possible entry slated for 2025

NORTH MACEDONIA

Population **2.08 million**
GDP **\$12.67 billion**



ALBANIA

Population **2.86 million**
GDP **\$15.10 billion**



North Macedonia and Albania received EU approval to start membership negotiations in Mar 2020, but still await formal start date

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Population **3.32 million**
GDP **\$20.16 billion**



KOSOVO

Population **1.84 million**
GDP **\$7.93 billion**



Requested to join EU in 2016 – application pending approval

Needs to mend relations with Serbia through EU-mediated talks