



VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

SOFIA MEETING 2024

CONTINUING TO BUILD ECONOMIC BRIDGES
DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

22. April 2024

Boyana Residence
Trijadiza Hall
Sofia, Bulgaria

Working Languages: Bulgarian and English
Simultaneous Translation will be provided

Monday, 22 April 2024
Boyana Residence, Trijadiza Hall, Sofia

08.00-08.45 a.m. REGISTRATION

08.45-08.55 a.m. FAMILY PHOTO (by invitation)

09.00-11.00 a.m. I. SESSION

**CONTINUING TO BUILD ECONOMIC BRIDGES DURING DIFFICULT TIMES
ENSURING ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE REGION
ON THE PATH TO EUROPE - CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

MODERATION

- **Dr. Boyko VASSILEV**, Presenter and Producer of Panorama, Bulgarian National TV

OPENING

- **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, Founder and Member of the Board, **Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum**
- **Amb. Dr. Emil BRIX**, Director, Diplomatische Akademie Wien (DA)-Vienna School of International Studies, **Vienna President of Vienna Economic Forum**

GREETING ADDRESS

- **H.E. Mr. Dimitar GLAVCHEV**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria

GREETING WORDS

- **Dr. Akkan SUVER**, President, Marmara Group Foundation, Türkiye, **Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum**, Recipient of the Annual Award “**Strategic Partner Award 2014**”

IMPULS STATEMENT

- **Ms. Mariya GABRIEL**, Esteemed Long-Standing Active Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum, Recipient of the **Annual Award “Partner of the Year 2020”** for her contribution as European Commissioner to the economic development of the whole region

VIEW FROM A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

- **H.E. Dr. Artane RIZVANOLLI**, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Kosovo

MAIN STATEMENTS

- **Mr. Peter HÖFINGER**, Deputy General Manager and Deputy Chairman of the Managing Board Vienna Insurance Group AG (VIG), **Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum**
- **H.E. Dr. Petko NIKOLOV**, Minister of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Bulgaria

PARTICIPANTS IN THE DISCUSSION

- **Mr. Björn GABRIEL**, Head of Representation in North Macedonia, European Investment Bank (EIB), **Luxembourg**
- **Ms. Anca Ioana IONESCU**, Director for Bulgaria, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), **UK**
- **Dr. Herbert STEPIC**, Consultant for Finance Industry and M&A, former CEO of Raiffeisen Bank International **Founding and Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum**
- **Mr. Kalin PESHOV**, CEO, Chairman of the Board of GBS Holding AD, **Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum**, The Seat of Vienna Economic Forum Sofia Branch

Q AND A SESSION
with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

11.00 -11.30 a.m. COFFEE BREAK
Possibilities for BILATERAL TALKS (organized by VEF)

11.30 a.m. -1.30 p.m. II. SESSION - ASK THE VISIONERS
THE ROLLE OF INOVATION, TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION
FOR THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

MODERATION

- **Dr. Boyko VASSILEV**, Presenter and Producer of Panorama, Bulgarian National TV

GREETING WORDS

- **H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rosen KARADIMOV**, Minister of Innovation and Growth of the Republic of Bulgaria

IMPULS STATEMENTS

- **H.E. Mr. Albin KURTI**, Prime Minister of KOSOVO, Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

PARTICIPANTS IN THE DISCUSSION

- **Mag. Mila NENOVA**, Executive Director, InvestBulgaria Agency, Main Cooperation Partner of Vienna Economic Forum, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Mag. Heinz MESSINGER**, Managing Director, AME International GmbH, Austria, Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Prof. Dr. Danica PURG**, President of Bled School of Management, Slovenia Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Dr. Goran JOVETIĆ**, State Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Development of Montenegro
- **Ms. Ayşe ÇERI**, Project Manager, Overseas Offices Unit, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office Representative of the Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Prof. Dr. Barbara KOLM**, President Friedrich A, v. Hayek Institute, Director of Austrian Economic Center, Austria, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum - *"No Innovations without Education"*

CONCLUDING WORDS

- **Amb. Dr. Emil BRIX**, Director, Diplomatiche Akademie Wien (DA)/Vienna School of International Studies, Vienna, President of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, Founder and Member of the Board, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum

Q AND A SESSION

With the Audience (led by the Moderator)

1.30 p.m. SPECIAL AWARD CEREMONY OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM - SOFIA MEETING 2024

Followed by NETWORKING LUNCH FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS
Possibilities for BILATERAL TALKS (organized by VEF)

2.30 p.m. END OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM - SOFIA MEETING 2024