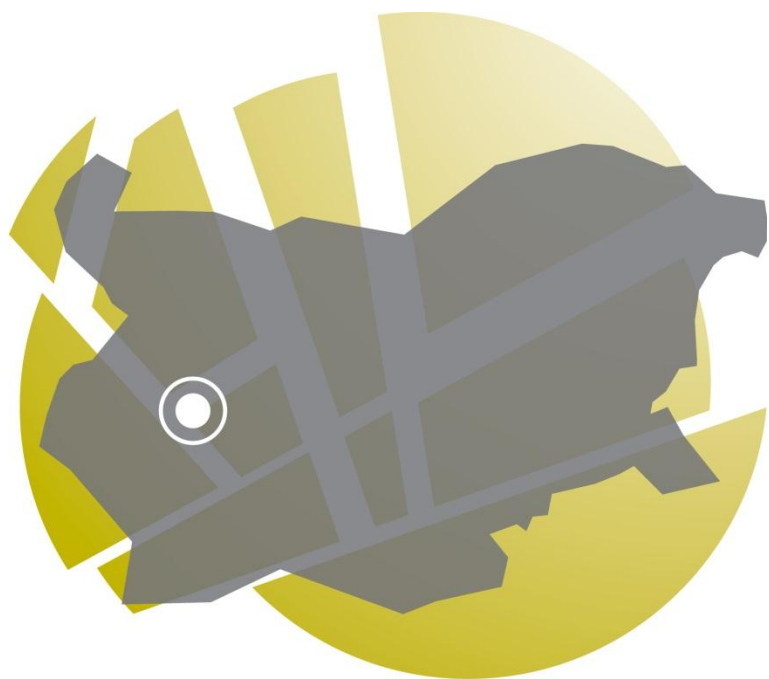


CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



SOFIA

THE EU-BALKAN SUMMIT PAVING THE WAY TO RECOVERY AND GROWTH

OCTOBER 17th-18th 2013

Sheraton Sofia Hotel Balkan

ALBANIA

**BOSNIA
AND
HERZEGOVINA**

BULGARIA

CROATIA

GREECE

MONTENEGRO

ROMANIA

SERBIA

DAY 1–Thursday, October 17th, 2013

15:00 Registration

15:30 Coffee and refreshments

16:00 Chairpersons' welcome:

THE EIU FORECAST ON THE BALKAN REGION

- From crisis to sustained recovery?
- Which countries will fare best and which will struggle?

Laza Kekic, *Regional Director, Europe*, Economist Intelligence Unit

Joan Hoey, *Senior Analyst & Regional Editor, Europe*, Economist Intelligence Unit

16:20 Discussion

16:30 Official opening

IN DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENT: BULGARIA AND ROMANIA

Plamen Oresharski, *Prime Minister of Bulgaria*

Liviu-Nicolae Dragnea, *Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Regional Development and Public Administration*, Romania

17:00 Discussion

17:30 End of conference session

19:00 Cocktail reception

20:00 GALA DINNER

Guest of honour and keynote speaker:

Rosen Plevneliev, *President of Bulgaria*

DAY 2–Friday, October 18th, 2013

08:30 Arrival of delegates

09:00 Setting the stage:

SE EUROPE: WHAT SHOULD WE ANTICIPATE?

- EU's strategy of enlargement in the Balkan region
- Western Balkans: Opportunities & obstacles
- What has been the impact of EU membership on the economy?
- Croatia: the new kid on the block

Welcome by:

Laza Kekic, *Regional Director, Europe*, Economist Intelligence Unit

Opening address:

Daniela Bobeva, *Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Development*, Bulgaria

Dimitris Kourkoulas, *Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs*, Greece

Dimitar Bechev, *Senior Policy Fellow, Head*, European Council on Foreign Relations, Bulgaria

09:40 Business roundtable discussion

10:10 CAN BULGARIA BECOME THE NEW "SILICON VALLEY" OF SE EUROPE?

- The prospects for IT and Telecoms

Pat Gelsinger, *Chief Executive Officer*, VMware, USA

10:20 Discussion

10:40 **Break**

11:10 **THE ECONOMIC & BUSINESS CLIMATE IN THE BALKANS FOR THE NEXT DECADE**

In an in-depth discussion we shall analyse how the Euro zone crisis has affected the Balkan region, predict growth indicators and assess the outlook for business and investments

- Key priorities for the next five years
- Strategies to achieve sustainable economic growth
- Assessing business and investment opportunities in the region

Max Watson, *Visiting Fellow*, St Antony's College, University of Oxford, UK

Peter Sanfey, *Lead Economist*, EBRD

Wolfgang Fengler, *Country Sector Coordinator for the Western Balkans*, The World Bank, Austria

THE BANKING OUTLOOK FOR THE BALKAN REGION

- Financial services: overcoming the crisis, looking forward
- Greece's presence in the financial landscape: future plans?

Ilias Lekkos, *Group Chief Economist*, Piraeus Bank

- The business response:

Georgios Rousos, *General Secretary*, Hellenic Business Council in Bulgaria (HBCB)

11:50 Roundtable discussion

12:20 **MOVING FORWARD: ATTRACTING GLOBAL CITIZENS THROUGH INVESTMENTS**

The Hon. Sergio Marchi, *Chairman, Advisory Board*, Arton Capital

Milen Keremedchiev, *Vice President Business Development*, Arton Capital, Bulgaria

12:35 Discussion

12:50 **CROATIA: THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK**

- A vision for Croatia's future development

Alen Leveric, *Deputy Minister of Economy*, Croatia

13:00 Discussion

13:15 **Networking luncheon**

14:30 **ENERGY: UNTAPPING THE SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL**

- What are the prospects & challenges?
- Pipeline projects in the southern corridor and their geostrategic significance for the region

From renewables, natural gas, hydrocarbons and shale gas fracturing to new pipelines and LNGs for transportation purposes, the potential for collaboration in this field is vast and geographically of utmost importance to re-designing the energy map of Europe. Moreover, the southeastern European countries are playing a significant role for the security of energy supply in Europe.

Ivan Ayolov, *Deputy Minister of Economy and Energy*, Bulgaria

- The business perspective

Michael Hoffmann, *External Affairs Director*, Trans Adriatic Pipeline

Elio Ruggeri, *CEO*, IGI Poseidon, Italy *and Chairman BoD*, ICGB, Bulgaria

Harry Sachinis, *Chairman and CEO*, DEPA (Public Gas Corporation), Greece

15:10 Discussion

**15:40 THE LIBERALISATION OF THE ENERGY MARKET
OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT VENTURES AND COLLABORATION IN THE REGION**

Andreas Mitafidis, *Director, Energy Management Division*, Public Power Corporation, Greece

15:50 Discussion

**16:00 Official Closing
GOVERNMENT IN DIALOGUE WITH BUSINESS**

- Improving the business climate: how?
- What incentives are being given for investment?
- What obstacles need to be overcome?

Milorad Dodik, *President*, Republika Srpska

Niko Peleshi, *Deputy Prime Minister*, Albania

Dragomir Stoynev, *Minister of Economy and Energy*, Bulgaria

- **Official Announcement of Top100 SEE 2013 Companies**

Dilyan Damyanov, *Editorial Director of TOP100SEE and Director Information Services*, SeeNews

Roundtable Discussion

Tsvetan Simeonov, *Chairman*, Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Anastasios Alexandridis, *Executive Vice Chairman*, SEVE Greek International Business Association

Domagoj Juricic, *Managing Director, Department for International Relations*, Croatian Chamber of Economy

17:00 Discussion

17:30 Conclusions – End of conference

17:45 **Cocktail reception**

Last update: **October 15th, 2013**

This agenda is registered to The Economist Events/Hazlis & Rivas. Speakers mentioned herein **have confirmed their participation**.