

PLOVDIV ECONOMIC FORUM

Imperial Plovdiv Hotel, June 26-27, 2019

Draft agenda as of June 10, 2019

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Wednesday | June 26

- 12:30 Registration - Arrival of guests & participants**
- 13:15 Official opening luncheon (*by invitation only*) – Ball room**
Guest of Honour and Speaker
✓ **H.E. Boyko Borissov**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Opening remarks
✓ **Ivan Totev**, Mayor of Plovdiv Municipality
- 14:45 Break**
- 15:30 Western Balkans: the regional stability challenge**
Opening statements
✓ **Ekaterina Zaharieva**, Deputy PM, Judicial Reform & Minister of Foreign Affairs
✓ **Ana Birchall**, Deputy PM for Romania's Strategic Partnerships' Implementation
- Comments
✓ **H.E. Hasan Ulusoy**, Ambassador of Turkey to the Republic of Bulgaria
✓ **Ivan Krastev**, Chairman, Centre for Liberal Strategies
- ✓ *Chair: Daniel Stefanov*, Program Coordinator, ECFR Sofia
- 16:45 Where is Europe heading now? The new EU Parliament & EU Commission. What to expect?**
✓ **Lilyana Pavlova**, Member of the Parliament, Bulgaria
✓ **Sandro Gozi**, fmr Under-Secretary for European Affairs, PM's office of Italy
✓ **Rastislav Káčer**, Chairman, Globsec, Slovakia
✓ **H.E. Päivi Blinnikka**, Ambassador of Finland to the Republic of Bulgaria
✓ **George Pagoulatos**, Prof., Athens University of Economics & Business, VP, ELIAMEP
- ✓ *Chair: Antoinette Primatarova*, Program Director, Center of Liberal Strategies

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- 18:00** **The global business cycle in the Balkans**
✓ **Fabricio Zarcone**, Country Manager, World Bank, Bulgaria
✓ **Larisa Manastirli**, Director, EBRD, Sofia Resident Office
✓ **Vladimir Mihailovski**, IFC Country Officer, Bulgaria
✓ **Andreas Beikos**, Head, EIB, Bulgaria
✓ **Krassen Stanchev**, Associate Professor, Sofia University

✓ *Chair: **Georgy Ganev**, Program Director, Centre for Liberal Strategies*
- 19:30** End of Day 1
- 21:00** *Reception hosted by the Mayor of Plovdiv and the Plovdiv Economic Forum, at **Morado** Restaurant (**by invitation only**)*
- Thursday | June 27**
- 08:30** **Arrival of guests & participants**
- 09:30** ✓ In conversation - **Tomislav Donchev**, Deputy PM of the Republic of Bulgaria
✓ *Chair: **Georgi Stoytchev**, Executive Director, Open Society Institute, Bulgaria*
- 10:00** **Innovation in healthcare - a cure for demographic problems**
✓ **Deyan Denev**, Executive Director, ARPharM Bulgaria
✓ **Assena Stoimenova**, Professor, Faculty of public health, Medical University-Sofia

*Chair: **Dr Kountcho Trifonov**, Managing Director, Health PR*
- 10:45** **Conditions for transforming Bulgaria as a European digital hub**
✓ **Mariya Gabriel**, EU Commissioner for Digital Economy & Society

✓ **Marta Poslad**, Head of CEE Public Policy, Google
✓ **Diana Valkova**, Dinova Rusev & Partners Law Office

*Chair: **Anton Gerunov**, COO, LogSentinel, Bulgaria*
- 11:45** ✓ In conversation – **Nikolina Angelkova**, Minister of Tourism, Bulgaria
Chair: TBA

12:00

Break

12:15

Infrastructure and Connectivity in Bulgaria and the region

- ✓ **Rossen Jeliakov**, Minister of Transport, IT & Communications, Bulgaria
- ✓ **Dmitry Pankin**, President, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank
- ✓ **Amb. Michael B. Christides**, Sec.Gen., Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Turkey

- ✓ *Chair: Daniel Stefanov*, Program Coordinator, ECFR Sofia

13:00

Bulgaria's road map to ERM II and banking union

- Opening statement
- ✓ **Marinela Petrova**, Deputy Minister of Finance, Republic of Bulgaria

 - Discussants
 - ✓ **Petia Dimitrova**, CEO, Postbank
 - ✓ **Levon Hampartzoumian**, Financial Expert, UniCredit Bulbank Bank

 - ✓ *Chair: Georgy Ganev*, Program Director, Centre for Liberal Strategies

13:45

Lunch break

14:30

Rule of Law in the EU framework

- ✓ **Ognian Zlatev**, Head of the EC Representation in Bulgaria
- Ognian Minchev**, Institute for Regional and International Studies, Bulgaria
- ✓ **Jacek Kucharczyk**, President of the Institute for Public Affairs, Poland

- ✓ *Chair: Daniel Smilov*, Program Director, Centre for Liberal Strategies

15:15

Developments in FDI & regional economic clusters

- Opening statement
- ✓ **Christos Harpantidis**, Mng Director PMI, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia
 - Discussants
 - ✓ **Stamen Yanev**, CEO, Investbulgaria Agency
 - ✓ **Petar Ivanov**, Executive Director, AmCham Bulgaria
 - ✓ **Plamen Panchev**, Chairman of the Board, TEZ Bulgaria
 - ✓ **Nikolay Garnev**, Country Mng Partner EY, Bulgaria, N.Macedonia, Albania & Kosovo
 - ✓ **Dimitris Papoulis**, CEO, Sofia South Ring Mall EAD

 - ✓ *Chair: Petar Ganev*, Institute for Market Economics



16:30

Energy Geopolitics - Shifting forces in the Region

I. Oil and Gas

- ✓ **Ana Birchall**, Deputy PM for Romania's Strategic Partnerships' Implementation
- ✓ **Temenuzhka Petkova**, Minister of Energy, Republic of Bulgaria

- ✓ **Teodora Georgieva**, Executive officer & Board Member, ICGB AD, Bulgaria
- ✓ **Plamen Dilkov**, Vice President, Confindustria, Bulgaria

II. Renewables and electricity

- ✓ **Ivan Ivanov**, Chairman, the Energy & Water Regulatory Commission, Bulgaria
- ✓ **Olivier Marquette**, President, AES Bulgaria
- ✓ **Yolian Ivanov**, Executive Director for Southern Europe, "The Collins Group"
- ✓ **Alexandra Psyrr**, Chief Executive Director, PPC Bulgaria
- ✓ **George Kremlis**, Honorary Director, EC, in charge of Circular Economy, Brussels
- ✓ *Chair:* **Nikolay Minkov**, Executive Director, Industrial Cluster Srednogorie, Bulgaria

18:00

Closing remarks – end of Forum