Imperial Plovdiv Hotel, June 26-27, 2019

Draft agenda as of June 10, 2019

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Plovdiv Economic Forum Ltd, Tel.: +30 210 728 9000, www.plovdivforum.com, info@plovdivforum.com
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
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 Belkos, 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 Jeliazkov, 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 Psyrri, 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