

PLOVDIV ECONOMIC FORUM

Imperial Plovdiv Hotel, June 26-27, 2019

Draft agenda as of March 26, 2019

In cooperation with



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Wednesday | June 26

- 12:30** Registration - Arrival of guests & participants
- 13:15** Opening remarks
✓ **Ivan Totev**, Mayor of Plovdiv Municipality
- Official opening lunch – **Ball room**
Guest of Honour and Speaker
✓ **H.E. Boyko Borissov**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria
- 15:00** **Break**
- 15:15** Power shifts and their impact on Bulgaria
✓ **Ivan Krastev**, Chairman, Centre for Liberal Strategies
- 15:45** 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. Paivi Blinnika**, Ambassador of Finland to the Republic of Bulgaria
✓ **George Pagoulatos**, Professor, Athens University of Economics & Business, VP, ELIAMEP
- Chair:*
- 16:45** The populist-authoritarian wave in Central & Eastern Europe
Fernando Casal Bertoa, Associate Prof. School of Politics & Int'nal Relations, University of Nottingham, UK
- Chair:*

17:30

Break

17:45

Western Balkans: the regional stability challenge

- ✓ **Ekaterina Zaharieva**, Deputy PM, Judicial Reform & Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Ivica Dacic**, First Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Serbia
- George Katrougalos**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic
- H.E. Hasan Ulusoy**, Ambassador of Turkey to the Republic of Bulgaria
- ✓ **H.E. Vladimir Chizhov**, Russia's Ambassador to the EU, Brussels

Chair:

18:45

The global business cycle in the Balkans

- Fabricio Zarcone**, Country Manager, World Bank, Bulgaria
 - ✓ **Larisa Manastirli**, Director, EBRD, Sofia Resident Office
 - Thomas Lubeck**, Regional Manager Central & SE Europe, IFC, Serbia
 - ✓ **Andreas Beikos**, Head, European Investment Bank
 - ✓ **Krassen Stanchev**, Associate Professor, Sofia University
- ✓ *Chair: Georgy Ganev*, Program Director, Centre for Liberal Strategies

19:45

End of Day 1

21:00

Reception (TBA)

Thursday | June 27

08:30

Arrival of guests & participants

09:30

In conversation - Tomislav Donchev, Deputy Prime Minister

- ✓ *Chair: Georgi Stoytchev*, Executive Director, Open Society Institute, Bulgaria

10:00

In conversation - Emil Karanikolov, Minister of Economy

Chair:

14:30

Break

Plenary Session

14:45

Energy Geopolitics - Shifting forces in the Region- ***Ball room***

I. Oil and Gas

- ✓ **Temenuzhka Petkova**, Minister of Energy, Republic of Bulgaria
- Aleksandar Antic**, Minister of Mining & Energy, Republic of Serbia
- Ana Birchall**, Deputy PM for Romania's Strategic Partnerships' Implementation
- ✓ **Teodora Georgieva**, Executive officer & Board Member, ICGB AD, Bulgaria
- Megan Richards**, Energy Policy Director, European Commission, Brussels

15:30

II. Renewables and electricity

Ivan Ivanov, President, Energy & Water Resources Commission, Bulgaria

- ✓ **Olivier Marquette**, President, AES
- George Kremlis**, Honorary Director, EC, in charge of Circular Economy, Brussels

Chair:

16:15

Discussion on Start ups in Bulgaria

Lyuben Belov, Founding Partner, LaunchHub

- ✓ **Leona Aslanova**, founder, Innovation Starter Box

Chair:

17:00

Closing remarks – end of Forum

19:30

Cultural event (TBA)