



**Tuesday January 27, 2026**  
**Ballroom, Sofia Balkan Hotel**

#### **08.45 Arrival of Guests - Registration**

#### **09.30 Welcome Remarks**

- ✓ **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece
- ✓ **H.E. Alexios Marios Lyberopoulos**, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the Republic of Bulgaria

#### **Geopolitical Ripple: Effects on Southeast Europe's Economic Landscape**

*Major crises, such as the Russia-Ukraine war and tariffs "war", have created a cascade of economic effects on economies in Southeast Europe.*

- ✓ **Rossen Plevneliev**, President of the Republic Bulgaria (2012-2017)
- ✓ **H.E. Irene Maria Plank**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Bulgaria
- ✓ **H.E. Marie Dumoulin**, Ambassador of France to the Republic of Bulgaria
- ✓ **Dimitris Avramopoulos**, EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs & Citizenship (2014-2019), Greece
- ✓ **Elena Poptodorova**, Vice President and Founding Member of the Board, Atlantic Club of Bulgaria
- ✓ **Plamen Tonchev**, Head of Asia Unit, Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER/ΙΔΟΣ)
- ✓ *Chair: Vessela Tcherneva*, Deputy Director, ECFR Sofia

#### **Bulgaria in the EURO: Strengthening Economic Stability**

- Andrey Gurov**, Deputy Governor, Bulgarian National Bank
- ✓ **Sandra Švaljek**, Deputy Governor, Croatian National Bank
- ✓ *Chair: Petar Ganev*, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Market Economics, Bulgaria

#### **Powering the Future: Bulgaria's Strategic Role in Europe's Energy Transformation**

*Bulgaria is solidifying its strategic energy position in Southeast Europe by simultaneously investing in the Vertical Corridor, developing regional gas infrastructure, and attracting foreign capital for a robust expansion of renewables and energy storage.*

- ✓ **Zhecho Stankov**, Minister of Energy (2025), Republic of Bulgaria
- ✓ **H.E. Haralambos Kafkarides**, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the Republic of Bulgaria
- ✓ **Julian Popov**, Minister of the Environment (2023-2024), Republic of Bulgaria
- ✓ **Vladimir Malinov**, Executive Director, Bulgartransgaz
- ✓ **Stanislav Anastassov**, Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Republic of Bulgaria
- ✓ **Konstantinos Aravossis**, Vice Chairman of Waste Sector, Regulatory Authority for Waste, Energy & Water, Greece
- ✓ *Chair: George Kremlin*, Ambassador of the European Public Law Organisation to Bulgaria



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### **Building Bridges: Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration in Southeast Europe**

*Through new and upgraded roads, railways, and ports, SE European countries are strengthening regional ties, boosting trade, and integrating their economies with the rest of Europe.*

**Grozdan Karadjov**, Deputy PM & Minister of Transport & Communications (2021-2022 & 2025) , Republic of Bulgaria

**Christos Dimas**, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, Hellenic Republic

**Ciprian-Constantin Șerban**, Minister of Infrastructure & Transportation, Republic of Romania

- ✓ **Assen Vassilev**, Minister of Finance (2023-2024), Republic of Bulgaria
- ✓ **Yannis Kirkinezis**, Vice President and Managing Director, Balkans, Hill International
- ✓ **Jason Brett Pellmar**, Country Manager for Bulgaria, The World Bank Group
- ✓ **Manuela Naessl**, Country Director, Bulgaria, EBRD
- Savvas Karafyllidis**, President, Bulgarian-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Industry

✓ *Chair:* **George Kremlis**, Ambassador of the European Public Law Organisation to Bulgaria

### **Attracting FDI: Fueling Business and Technological Innovation**

*What strategic measures can Bulgaria implement to leverage foreign direct investments for sustainable economic and technological development?*

- ✓ **Dimitris Skalkos**, Sec. Gen. for International Economic Affairs & Openness, MFA, Hellenic Republic
- ✓ **Kiril Petkov**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria (2021–2022)
- ✓ **Panagiotis Mavridis**, Member of the Management Board of Eurobank Bulgaria & Chairman, Hellenic Business Council in Bulgaria
- ✓ **Angel Ivanov**, Executive Director, InvestBulgaria Agency
- ✓ **Roberto Santorelli**, President & CEO, Santorelli AD; President (2021-2025), Confindustria Bulgaria
- Ivan Mihaylov**, CEO, American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria

✓ *Chair:* **Solomon Passy**, Founding President, Atlantic Club of Bulgaria

### **Tourism as a Strategic Pillar: Bulgaria's Path to Powering National Growth**

*A booming tourism sector, fueled by Schengen accession, offers a potential economic counter-force for the country. Is the economic vitality of the tourism industry a powerful enough engine to create jobs and opportunities, thereby helping to address and reverse the long-standing trend of depopulation?*

- ✓ **Lilyana Pavlova**, Vice President (2019-2023), European Investment Bank
- ✓ **Michael B. Christides**, Amb.(a.h.) Sec.Gen., Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (2015 - 2021)
- ✓ **Nikolina Angelkova**, Minister of Tourism (2014-2020), Republic of Bulgaria

*Chair:*

### **Official Dinner (by invitation only)**

#### **Guest of Honour and Speaker**

- ✓ **H.E. Rumen Radev**, President of the Republic of Bulgaria