



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

09.40 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/ΙΑΟΣ)
- ✓ *Chair: Vessela Tcherneva*, Deputy Director, ECFR Sofia

10.50 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

11.20 Networking Break

11.50 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 Kremlis*, Ambassador of the European Public Law Organisation to Bulgaria



Tuesday January 27, 2026
Ballroom, Sofia Balkan Hotel

12.50 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

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

14.00 Networking Lunch Break

14.45 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

15.45 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: Sergei Stanishev, Prime Minister of Bulgaria (2005-2009); Member of the European Parliament

16.30 End of Forum

19.30 Official Dinner (by invitation only)

Guest of Honour and Speaker

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