



Tuesday January 27, 2026
Ballroom, Sofia Balkan Hotel

08.30 Arrival of Guests - Registration

09.15 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
- ✓ **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:

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
Stavros Papastavrou, Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic
Bogdan-Gruia Ivan, Minister of Energy, Republic of Romania

- ✓ **H.E. Haralambos Kafkarides**, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the Republic of Bulgaria
- ✓ **Vladimir Malinov**, Executive Director, Bulgartransgaz
- ✓ **Stanislav Anastassov**, Deputy Chairman, Movement for Rights & Freedoms

✓ *Chair: George Kremlis*, 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
- Konstantinos Aravosis**, Vice Chairman, Regulatory Authority for Waste, Energy & Water, Greece

Chair:

Attracting FDI: Fueling Business and Technological Innovation

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

- ✓ **Kiril Petkov**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria (2021–2022)
- ✓ **Roberto Santorelli**, President (2021-2025), Confindustria Bulgaria
- ✓ **Panagiotis Mavridis**, Member of the Management Board of Eurobank Bulgaria & Chairman, Hellenic Business Council in Bulgaria
- Ivan Mihaylov**, CEO, American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria
- ✓ **Angel Ivanov**, Executive Director, InvestBulgaria Agency

Google
Microsoft

Chair:

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)
- ✓ **Manuela Naessl**, Country Director, Bulgaria, EBRD
- ✓ **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