



INTERNATIONAL
NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATION
SINCE 2011, RECONFIRMED STATUS
AS OF 1. JANUARY 2022

CONSULTATIVE STATUS
WITH THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS (ECOSOC)

REGISTERED IN THE
TRANSPARENCY REGISTER
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION



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VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM SOFIA MEETING 2024

CONTINUING TO BUILD
ECONOMIC BRIDGES
DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

IN COOPERATION WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

22 April 2024

Boyana Residence
Trijadiza Hall
Sofia, Bulgaria



Working Languages: Bulgarian and English
Simultaneous Translation will be provided

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY, 21 APRIL 2024

6:00–8:00 p.m. **WELCOME COCKTAIL** (by personal invitation) hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum and GBS Holding AD



MONDAY, 22 APRIL 2024

LOCATION

Boyana Residence
Trijadiza Hall, Sofia

8:00–8:45 a.m. REGISTRATION

8:45–8:55 a.m. **FAMILY PHOTO** (by invitation)

9:00–11:00 a.m. I SESSION

CONTINUING TO BUILD ECONOMIC BRIDGES DURING DIFFICULT TIMES ENSURING ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE REGION ON THE PATH TO EUROPE CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Moderation

Dr. Boyko VASSILEV, *Presenter and Producer of Panorama, Bulgarian National TV*

Opening

Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA, *Founder and Member of the Board Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum*

Amb. Dr. Emil BRIX, *Director Diplomatiche Akademie Wien (DA) Vienna School of International Studies, Vienna President of Vienna Economic Forum*

Greeting Address

H.E. Mr. Dimitar GLAVCHEV, *Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria*

Greeting Words

Dr. Akkan SUVER, *President Marmara Group Foundation, Türkiye, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum, Recipient of the Annual Award “Strategic Partner Award 2014”*

Impulse Statement

Ms. Mariya GABRIEL, *Esteemed Long-Standing Active Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum, Recipient of the Annual Award “Partner of the Year 2020” for her contribution as European Commissioner to the economic development of the whole region*

View from a Regional Perspective

H.E. Dr. Artane RIZVANOLLI, *Minister of Economy of the Republic of Kosovo*

Main Statements

Mag. Peter HÖFINGER, *Deputy General Manager and Deputy Chairman of the Managing Board Vienna Insurance Group AG (VIG) Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum*

H.E. Dr. Petko NIKOLOV, *Minister of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Bulgaria*

Participants in the Discussion

Mr. Björn GABRIEL, *Head of Representation in North Macedonia, European Investment Bank (EIB) Luxembourg*

Dr. Herbert STEPIC, *Consultant for Finance Industry and M&A, former CEO of Raiffeisen Bank International Founding and Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum*

Mr. Kalin PESHOV, *MBA, CEO Chairman of the Board of GBS Holding AD Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum Vienna Economic Forum Sofia Branch*

Ms. Teodora MATEI, *Deputy Director Invest Moldova Agency, Moldova*

Mr. Dimitar NEDYALKOV, *Deputy Minister Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria*

Q and A Session

With the Audience (led by the Moderator)

11:00–11:30 a.m. **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. **II SESSION**

ASK THE VISIONERS THE ROLE OF INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION FOR THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Moderation

Dr. Boyko VASSILEV, *Presenter and Producer of Panorama, Bulgarian National TV*

Greeting Words

H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rosen KARADIMOV, *Minister of Innovation and Growth of the Republic of Bulgaria*

Impulse Statement

H.E. Mr. Albin KURTI, *Prime Minister of Kosovo Patron of Vienna Economic Forum*

Participants in the Discussion

Mag. Mila NENOVA, *Executive Director InvestBulgaria Agency, Main Cooperation Partner of Vienna Economic Forum, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

Mag. Heinz MESSINGER, *Managing Director AME International GmbH, Austria Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum*

Prof. Dr. Danica PURG, *President IEDC-Bled School of Management, Slovenia Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*

Dr. Goran JOVETIĆ, *State Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Development of Montenegro*

Ms. Ayşe ÇERI, *Project Manager Overseas Offices Unit, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office, Representative of the Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

Prof. Dr. Barbara KOLM, *President Friedrich A. v. Hayek Institute Director of Austrian Economic Center, Austria Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum “No Innovations without Education”*

Concluding Words

Amb. Dr. Emil BRIX, *Director Diplomatiche Akademie Wien (DA) Vienna School of International Studies, Vienna President of Vienna Economic Forum*

Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA, *Founder and Member of the Board Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum*

Q and A Session

With the Audience (led by the Moderator)

1:30 p.m. **SPECIAL AWARD CEREMONY OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM SOFIA MEETING 2024**

NETWORKING LUNCH for all participants

Possibilities for BILATERAL TALKS (organized by VEF)

2:30 p.m. **END OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM SOFIA MEETING 2024**



Main Cooperation Partners



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
Ministry of Innovation and Growth



InvestBulgaria Agency



Government of the
Republic of Kosovo

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